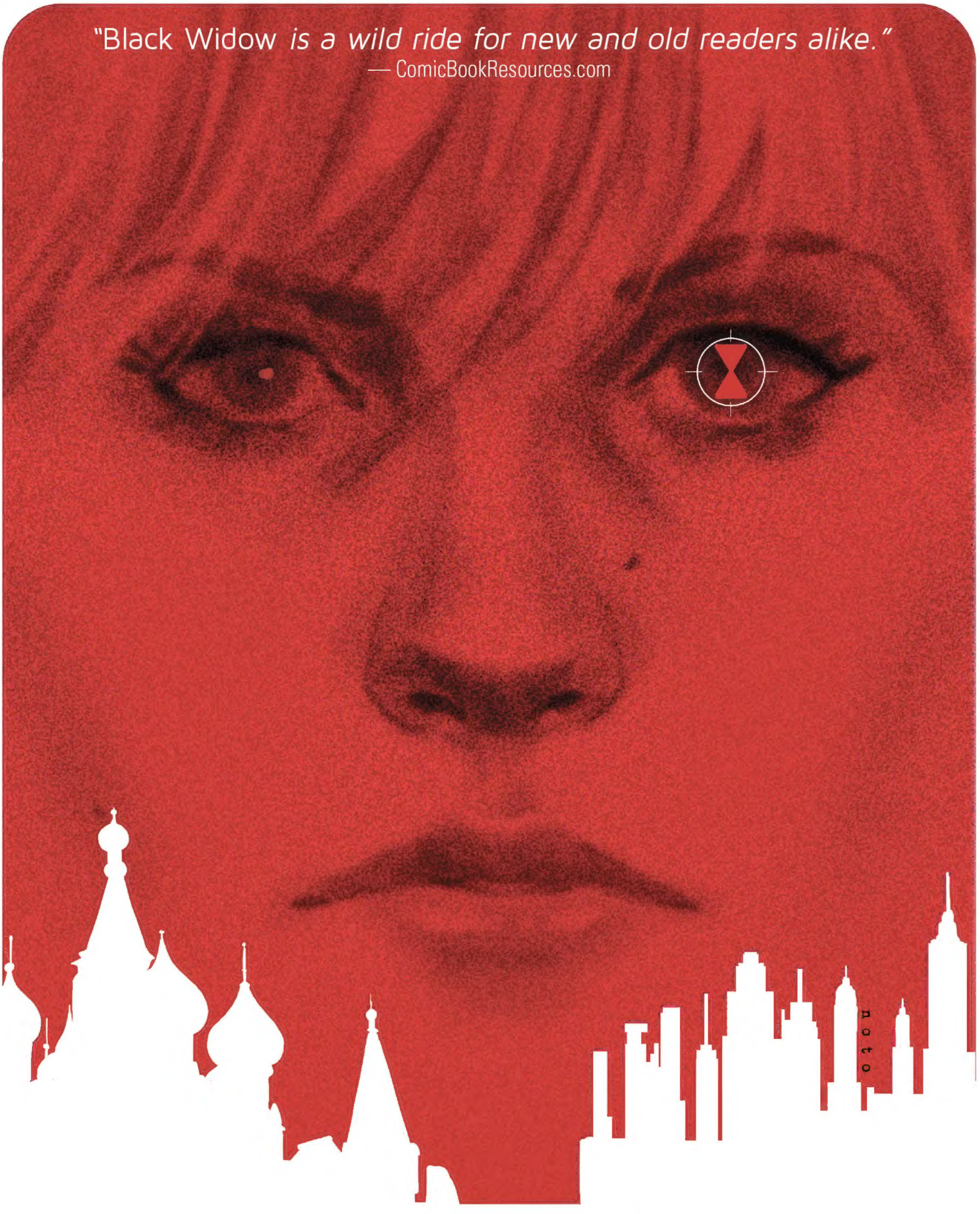
"Black Widow *is a wild ride for new and old readers alike.*"
— ComicBookResources.com



BLACK WIDOW®

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HOME IS WHERE THE HURT IS!

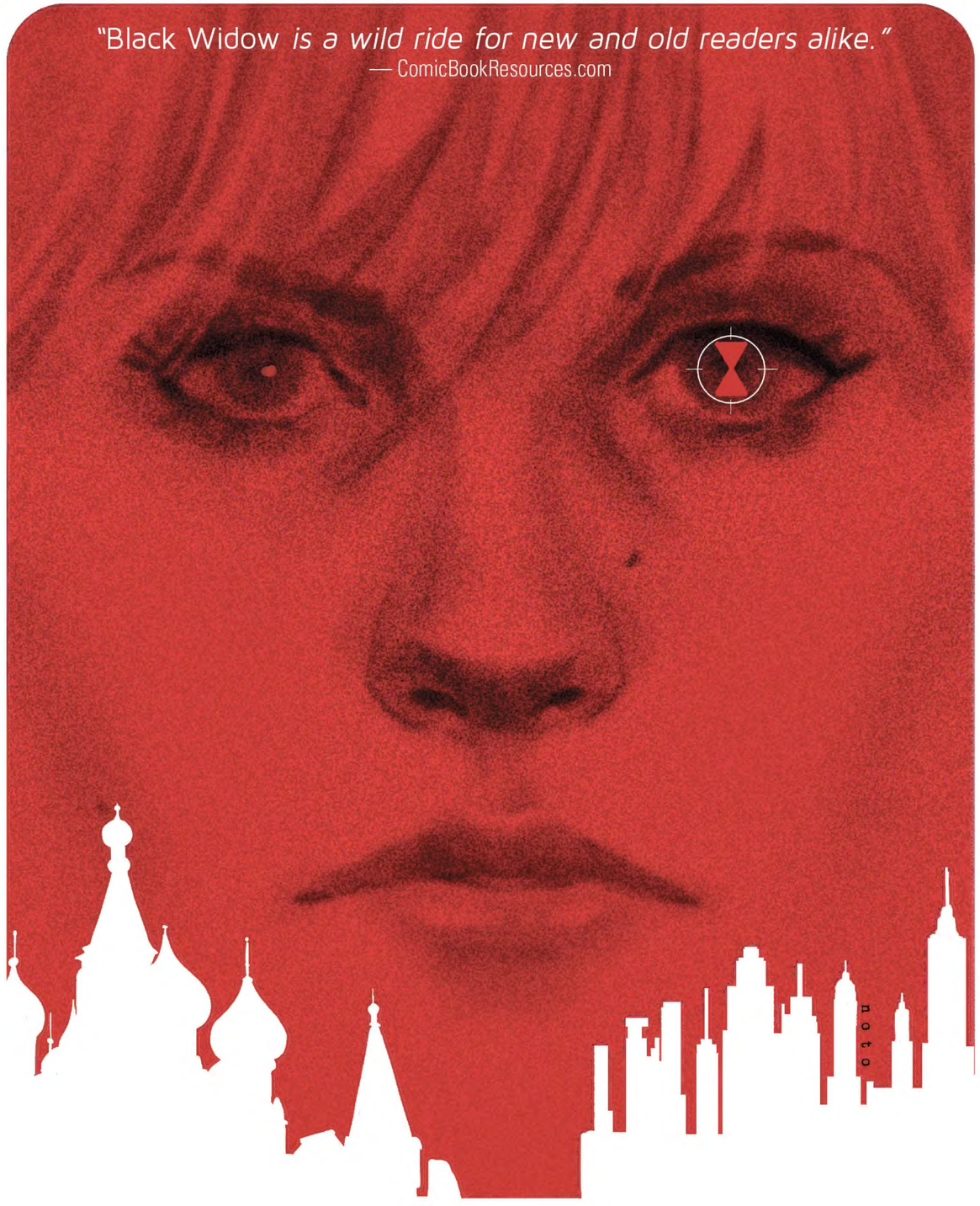
And the Black Widow has plenty of that. She may be an Avenger and an agent of S.H.I.E.L.D., but the Widow has her own mission: to atone for her past as a KGB assassin. Her methods are dirty. Her heart is cold. But her work is flawless. On an undercover assignment in Russia, she finds that the Hand of God is reaching for her — and it's as merciless as its name. Outmatched by the brute force of this powerful new villain, Natasha discovers a deadly globe-spanning plot. It's a race against time, and the Widow has nowhere to turn for answers. The trail of blood and destruction will test her strength and cunning — but it may also test her faith.

Collecting *Black Widow (2014) #1-6*, written by Nathan Edmondson and illustrated by Phil Noto.

T+

MARVEL

"Black Widow *is a wild ride for new and old readers alike.*"
— ComicBookResources.com



BLACK WIDOW®

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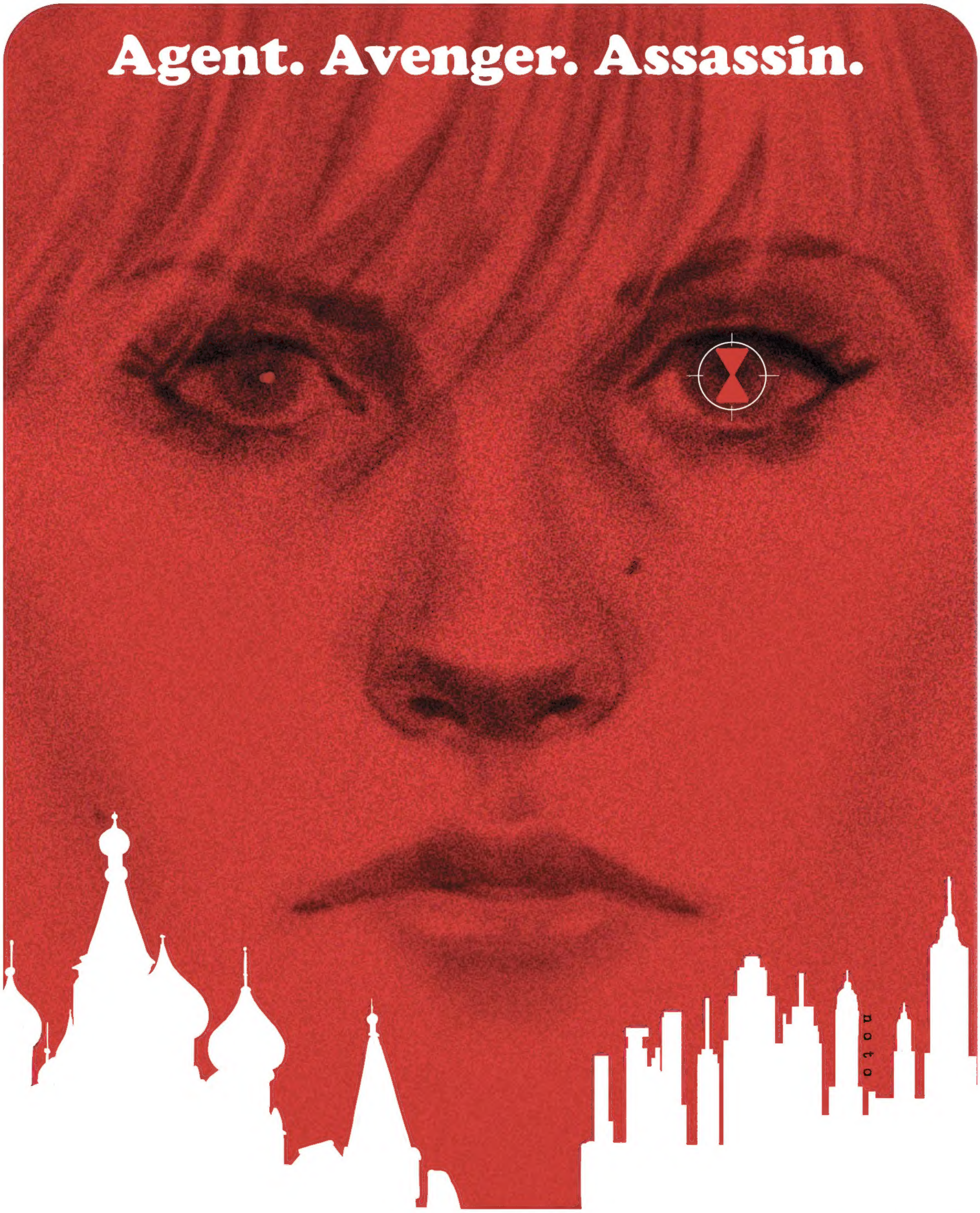
EDMONDSON MARVEL NOW! **NOTO**

Agent. Avenger. Assassin.



BLACK WIDOW

NATHAN EDMONDSON • PHIL NOTO

#1

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

AR | 001

NATASHA ROMANOV IS AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN EX-KGB ASSASSIN, BUT ON HER OWN TIME, SHE USES HER UNIQUE SKILL SET TO ATONE FOR HER PAST. SHE IS:

BLACK WIDOW

When you see this: AR, open up the MARVEL AR APP (available on applicable Apple ® iOS or Android ™ devices) and use your camera-enabled device to unlock extra-special exclusive features!

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BERLIN.

I DON'T KNOW A THING ABOUT YOU. HOW DO I KNOW THE POLICE DIDN'T SEND YOU? HOW DO I KNOW THAT?

FOR ALL I KNOW YOU'RE ONE OF THE *GOOD GUYS* DOWN THERE, HERE TO TAKE ME IN.

I'M ANYTHING BUT GOOD. AND I'M NOT ONE OF THEM. LISTEN TO MY ACCENT. I'M *RUSSIAN*, LIKE YOU.

BUT YOU CAN'T PROVE THAT, CAN YOU? THAT YOU'RE NOT GOOD? YOU'RE ASKING ME TO TRUST YOU TO GET ME OUT OF HERE, BUT I DON'T KNOW A *THING* ABOUT YOU.

I WILL TELL YOU WHO I AM, YURI.

"WHEN I WAS TWELVE, IN RUSSIA, I KILLED MY OWN PARENTS."

"WHY WOULD YOU DO THAT?"

"BECAUSE I WASN'T A GOOD PERSON. EVEN AT THAT AGE, I WAS THE WORST.

"SO I BECAME A CRIMINAL.

KRANG

"I SANK INTO THE CRIMINAL UNDERWORLD.

"IN THOSE DAYS, IT WAS NOT A JOKE. ONLY THE TOUGHEST OF THE TOUGH SURVIVED.

"I MARRIED ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL DRUG DEALERS ON THE STREET.

"IT DIDN'T LAST LONG...

"I CAUGHT HIM WITH ANOTHER WOMAN. SO I DISPATCHED BOTH OF THEM...

"FROM THERE I BECAME A ROGUE. I STARTED DOING WHATEVER I COULD, FOR SAFETY...

"...OR FOR MONEY."

THAT'S WHAT I'M DOING HERE, NOW.

A JOB FOR MONEY.

I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOU, I DON'T CARE ABOUT EVERYONE OUTSIDE...

BUT YOUR EMPLOYERS DON'T WANT YOU TO MAKE AN ***EMBARRASSMENT*** OF THIS SITUATION. SO I'M HERE TO GET YOU OUT.

ARE YOU THAT GOOD?

OH. I'M THAT GOOD.

YOU'LL GET ME OUT OF THIS?

YES, I WILL. YOU HAVE MY WORD AS A FELLOW COUNTRYWOMAN.

OKAY...

CLICK

SO WHO ARE YOU?

DETONATOR.

ARE YOU SURE THAT WILL--

I'M SURE.

BBRRR

"NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW MY FULL STORY."

RAISON D'ETRE

WRITTEN BY
NATHAN EDMONDSON

ART BY
PHIL NOTO

LETTERED BY
VC's CLAYTON COWLES

EDITED BY
ELLIE PYLE

EDITOR IN CHIEF
AXEL ALONSO

CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER
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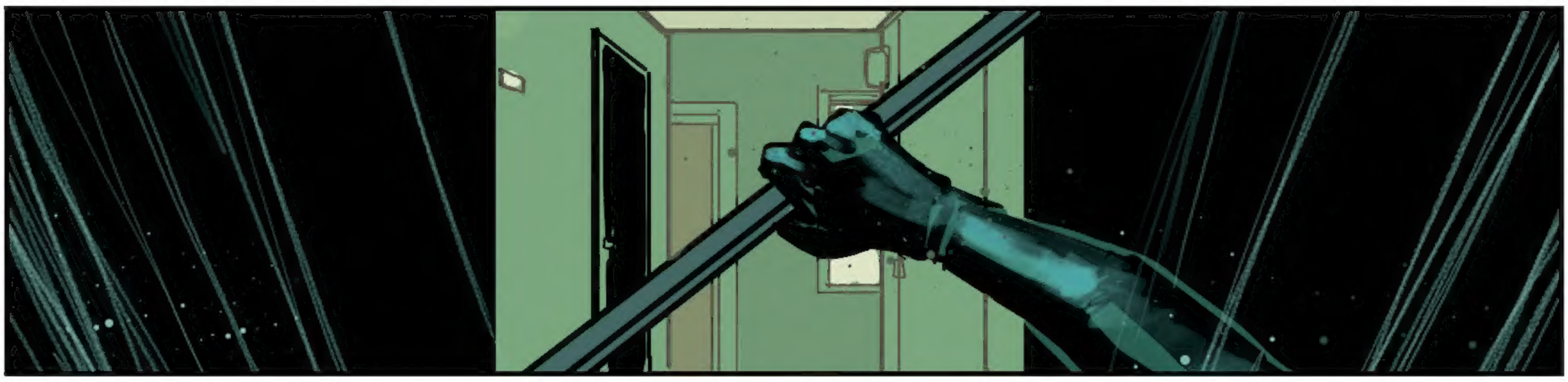
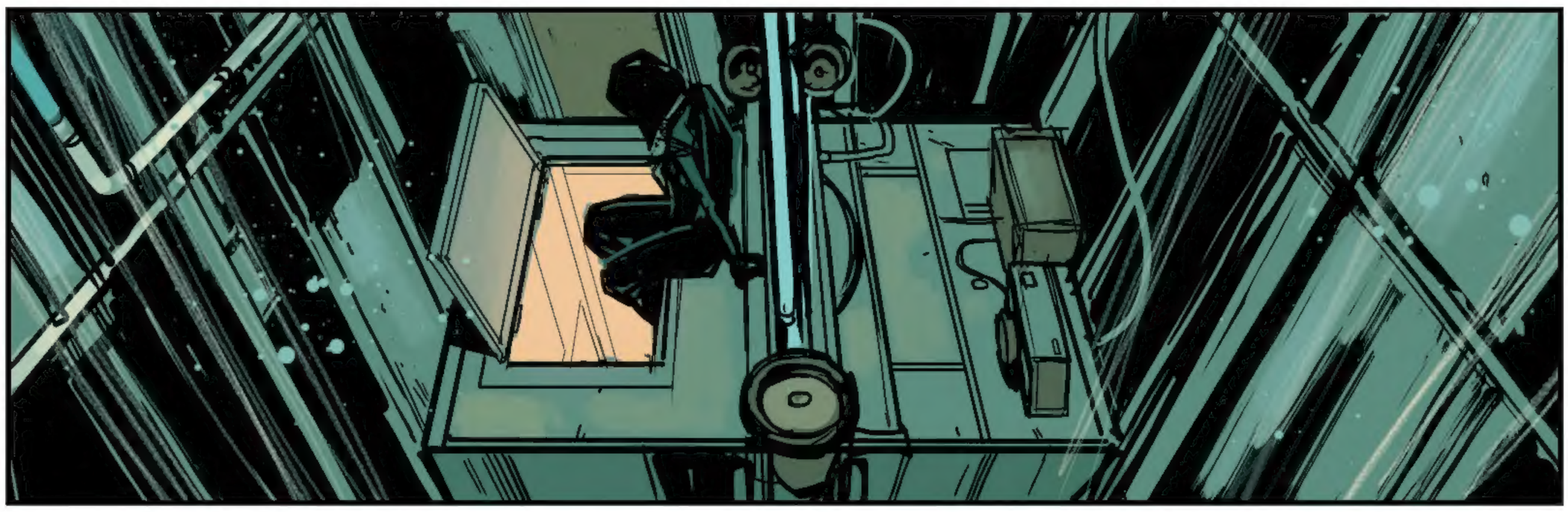
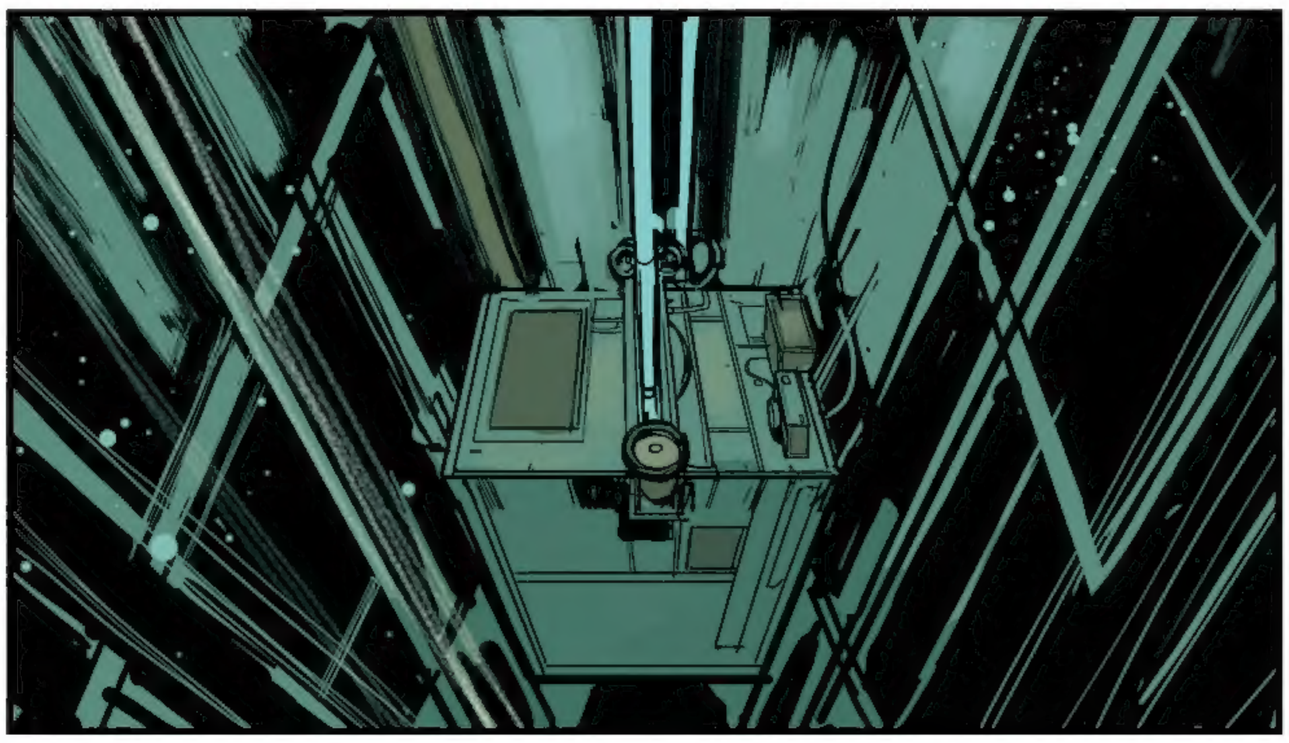






"THE CLIENT'S PAYMENT WAS RECEIVED ON TIME.
"I HAVE DISTRIBUTED THE MONEYS APPROPRIATELY."

CENTRAL PARK.
20 HOURS LATER.

...YOU REALLY OUGHT TO CHARGE MORE, NATASHA, FOR THESE SHORT-NOTICE JOBS. I MEAN, YOU COULD HAVE MADE TWICE--

ISAIAH, YOU'RE MY *LAWYER*. NOT MY LIFE COACH.

I'M YOUR LAWYER AND YOUR *MANAGER*. SINCE YOU DON'T--*WON'T*--CONSIDER THE FINANCIAL COST OF MANAGING YOUR PROPERTIES, *I* MUST. YOU NEED INCOME FOR THAT.

THEN I'D BETTER GET TO WORK. YOU SAID YOU HAVE ANOTHER JOB FOR ME?

JUST A MINUTE HERE.

ISAIAH, IS THERE ANYWHERE YOU DON'T SEEM OUT OF PLACE?

YES. THE JACUZZI IN MY HOUSE IN MAINE.

BUT IT'S JUST HOLDING THIS STUPID HEAVY BRIEFCASE--

VOILA.

DUBAI. A HIT?

YEP.

AND YOU CHECKED IT OUT?

HE PASSES ALL OF YOUR USUAL TESTS.

OKAY.

AND IT PAYS WELL.

LISTEN. ISAIAH.

I HAVE YOU FOR THE FINANCES BECAUSE I WANT TO BE SURE THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THIS DOES NOT BECOME ABOUT *GAIN* FOR ME...

I APPRECIATE THAT YOU FOUND ME A BETTER DEAL. NEGOTIATED. ALL THOSE THINGS I'M TERRIBLE ABOUT.

BUT I CAN'T START TO THINK ABOUT THIS AS A *FOR-PROFIT* VENTURE. THIS IS MY...

ATONEMENT. YEAH, YOU'VE TOLD ME BEFORE.

SO THE MONEY GOES TO THE TRUSTS AND TO MY WEB.

BUT I WON'T DO ANY WORK TO GET RICH.

I GET IT. I GOT IT. BUT YOU WANT ALL THESE TRUSTS FUNDED, AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE INCOME TO DO IT. IF YOU SPENT MORE TIME ON *JOBS*, PERHAPS, AND LESS HELPING THE *AVENGERS*--

TELL DUBAI I ACCEPT.

MY DOG LISTENS BETTER THAN YOU DO SOMETIMES.

DUBAI,
36 HOURS LATER.

...MR. LUCAS, YOU GOTS TO LISTEN, TONIGHT'S MEETING IS MEANINGLESS IF THEY'RE UNWILLING TO NEGOTIATE. THERE IS FAR TOO MUCH MONEY AT STAKE--

BUT MR. LUCAS, YOU GOTS TO SEE--

SHUT UP, WILL YOU? THE MEETING IS HAPPENING. WE HAVE AS MUCH TO ***GAIN*** AS LOSE. NOW FIND ME SOME ***WINE***.

IF I HAVE TO ***LISTEN*** TO YOU INTERRUPT ME WITH YOUR ***NONSENSE*** CONCERNS ONE MORE TIME, I SWEAR, KRISTOFF, I WILL KILL YOU AND LET MISS SOPHIE HERE ***EAT*** YOUR FLESH.

ANIMAL CRUELTY.

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW MUCH ABOUT ME.

YOU DON'T NEED TO KNOW WHERE I COME FROM.

SOMETHING YOU SHOULD KNOW, THOUGH.

I LOATHE CONFRONTATION.

ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY, I KNOW. I KNOW.

STARK INDUSTRIES

ZEUS

RPG

THESE PEOPLE I GO TO MEET...

THEY'RE NOT GOOD PEOPLE.

IN FACT, I MAKE SURE THEY'RE PRETTY MUCH THE WORST.

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I WANT TO PUT *HOLLOWPOINTS* IN THEIR HEADS.

THUD THUD

YOU KNOW, NOT NECESSARILY.

WELL? WHAT *IS* IT?

NOT SURE, MR. LUCAS. NO ONE HERE...

CHECK IT OUT TO BE *SURE!*

YOU GO OUT THERE TOO! WE'RE FINE IN HERE!

DON'T- A-WORRY, MR. LUCAS, WE GOTS THIS--

ZZZAAT

SNAP

POP

CRACK

SOMETIMES, THOUGH, YOU DO HAVE TO HURT ONE PRETTY BAD.

WHAT'S GOING ON OUT THERE?!

I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO NEED MORE MEN.

KILL THE INTRUDERS! KILL ALL OF THEM!

BRING ME THEIR HEADS!

THWACK

GAHH!

SOME THINGS YOU HAVE TO DO FOR YOURSELF, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?

I'LL SHOOT HIM IN THE NECK UNTIL HIS HEAD COMES OFF.

DING

WHOEVER YOU ARE, COME IN. I'M NOT AFRAID OF YOU. YOU CAN KILL AN ARMY BUT YOU'LL STILL HAVE TO FACE ME.

I'VE KILLED DOZENS OF AGENTS LIKE YOU, SENT TO KILL ME BEFORE.

SO STEP INTO THE ROOM AND FACE ME OR--

TINK

TINK

IF YOU'RE GOING TO *KILL* ME DO IT TO MY *FACE*, DON'T THROW YOUR *TOYS* AROUND LIKE A COWARD!

PUT ON THIS KEVLAR VEST.

I WASN'T HIRED TO KILL YOU, MR. LUCAS.

I WAS HIRED TO KILL YOUR ASSASSIN.

STAND BY THE WINDOW.

WHAT? *WHY?* WHY WOULD I--

BECAUSE IF YOU DON'T, I *WILL* KILL YOU.

AND BECAUSE YOUR *REAL* KILLER HAS A SNIPER RIFLE SOMEWHERE IN THE BUILDING ACROSS THE WAY.

WAIT, YOU CAN'T BE--YOU DON'T MEAN-- NO!

SİZ VARDIR...

THERE YOU ARE.

BAM

I HOPE I'M ZEROED IN.

SHOOT

O, HAYIR...

YEP. IT WAS ZEROED IN.

YOU THINK YOU CAN RUIN MY DEAL AND USE ME?
I KNOW YOUR NAME.
BLACK WIDOW.
THE AVENGERS, S.H.I.E.L.D., THE GOVERNMENT--THEY'LL HEAR ABOUT YOUR TACTICS!
IF YOU KNOW MY NAME...

...THEN YOU SHOULD KNOW I DON'T PLAY BY ANYONE'S RULES.

15 HOURS LATER.
LITTLE UKRAINE, NEW YORK CITY.

"SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED. I HAD TO HURT ONE PRETTY BAD.

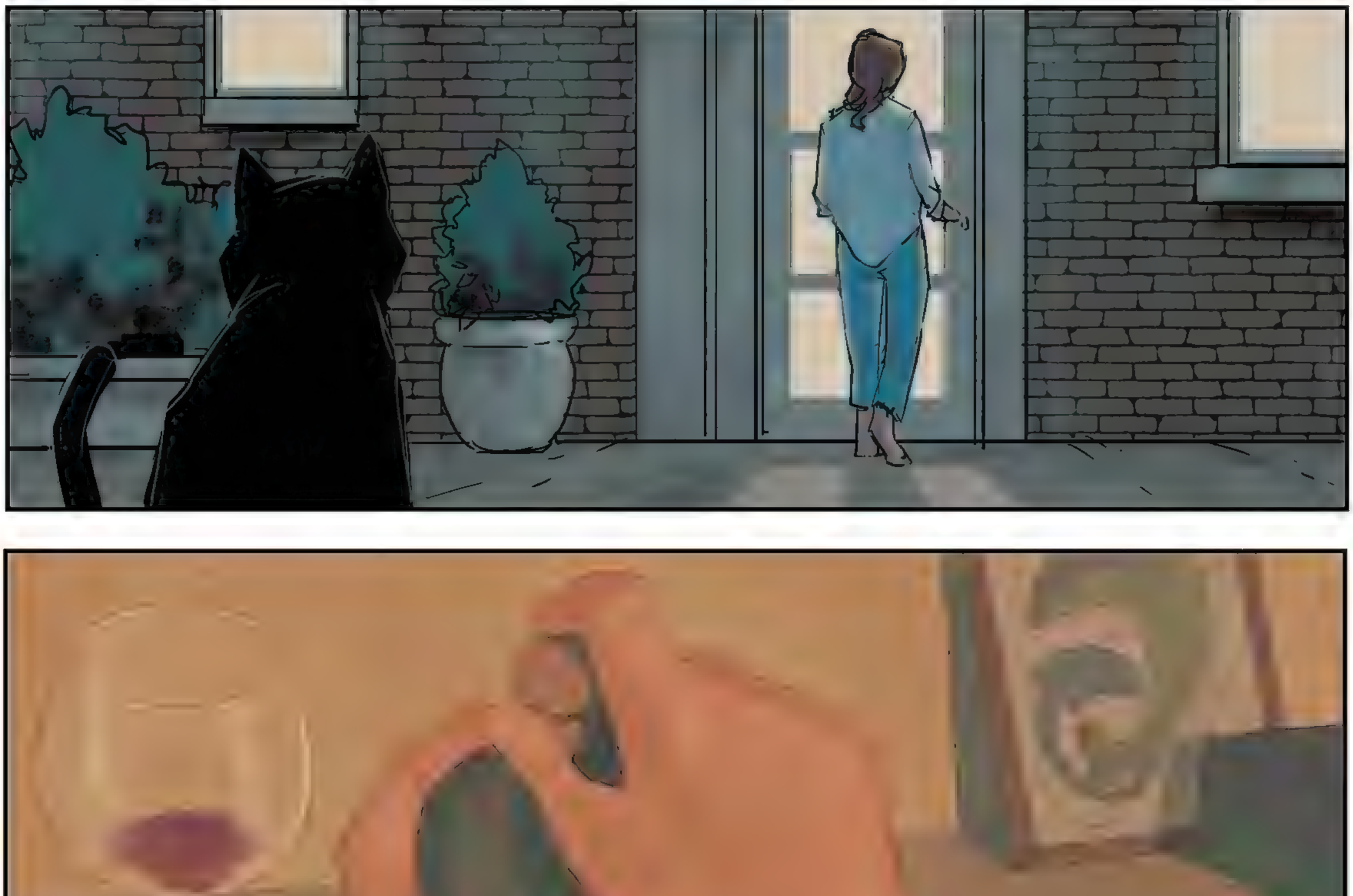
"THAT'S WHAT THE BLOOD IS, LIHO.

"SO LISTEN TO ME."

I TOLD YOU I DIDN'T MIND HANGING OUT. I TOLD YOU I'D FEED YOU ONCE IN A WHILE. BUT I'M NOT ADOPTING YOU. AND YOU CAN'T LICK ME.

I'M SERIOUS. HOW COULD I EVER TAKE CARE OF A CAT?

ANYWAY. LIKE I SAID, NO CONFRONTATION. WE'LL BE OKAY AS LONG AS WE'RE OKAY, GOT IT? YOU MAKE THIS A THING AND I'M GOING TO GET UPSET. SCRATCHING, BITING, WHINING AT ME. FORGET ALL OF THAT.



HOW MANY MORE JOBS...
HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE...

I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO IT...

EVEN IF I COULD FORGIVE MYSELF...

THIS IS WHAT I AM NOW.

AND YOU'LL NEVER KNOW *WHO* I WAS BEFORE.

TO RUSSIAN, WITH LOVE...

ELLIE PYLE — editor
AXEL ALONSO — editor in chief
JOE QUESADA — chief creative officer
DAN BUCKLEY — publisher
ALAN FINE — exec. producer

Welcome Widow-fans!

(We need a better name for you all, someone get working on that.)

Editor Ellie Pyle here, I hope you have enjoyed this first issue from the fabulous team of Nathan Edmondson and Phil Noto, and letterer Clayton Cowles!

The enthusiasm and anticipation for this book has been palpable and we hope it didn't disappoint. It's been tough for the creative team to keep from just spoiling everything, we've just been so excited to share it with all of you. But we made it! Except one lucky young man did manage a stealthy operation Natasha herself would be proud of while I happened to be setting the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Dear Marvel,

This comic was GREAT!! I read the 1st issue at least 4 times and loved it. I can't wait until the 2nd issue comes out, I'll definitely buy it. Overall it was a great read with wonderful artwork. I like the cat at the end, and the bulletproof vest with the sniper scene.

Dylan Unger

But not having read the book yet was no reason not to send fan mail, particularly if it included awesome anticipatory art!

Hey team,

I'm so excited for the new Black Widow! The creative squad is out of sight! From what I have read, it looks to be a bold new direction for the character. I believe this title has the potential for a knock out. I don't say that purely because of the success of Black Widow in the Avengers. I say it because Marvel has put out some excellent stuff recently, like Hawkeye!

I also wanted to send in some fan art for the upcoming book!

I had a ton of fun creating this image, I hope you all like it!

Greg Menzie
@Abnormalgreg

Something tells me Liho may have his own spin-off title soon.

Now, good news! If you simply cannot wait a whole month for more Natasha Romanov (and who can?) there are two reasons you don't have to!

First, I suggest you pick up a copy of ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW! POINT ONE also on sale this week! In addition to 8 more pages of the world's mightiest assassin doing what she does best (also by Nathan and Phil!) you will get a sneak peek at other incredible upcoming Marvel books including: MS. MARVEL, SILVER SURFER, LOKI: AGENT OF ASGARD, ALL-NEW INVADERS and AVENGERS WORLD.

And then, because you demanded it (or will be demanding it now that you've read this gorgeous first issue) Nathan and Phil will be back in just two weeks (1/22/14) with BLACK WIDOW #2!

So stay tuned Widow-watchers! (Nope...still not good...) And keep your letters, pictures and art coming!

Said with a smile,
Ellie Pyle

Send letters to mheroes@marvel.com
135 W 50th St, 7th Floor, New York, NY 10020
(Please mark "OKAY TO PRINT")

BLACK WIDOW

NATHAN EDMONDSON • PHIL NOTO

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

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WRITER

PHIL NOTO
ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

ELLIE PYLE
EDITOR

FRANK CHO & JUSTIN PONSOR
VARIANT COVER ARTISTS

AXEL ALONSO
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NOT EVERY JOB GOES ACCORDING TO PLAN

SHANGHAIED

IF THINGS GO WRONG IT'S MY FAULT

NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF

THAT'S DEFINITELY TRUE THIS TIME. A SCORPION WAITS BESIDE THE WATER BECAUSE IT KNOWS *THAT* IS WHERE THE PREY ALWAYS RETURNS

WHICH IS TO SAY, I SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT COMING

SHANGHAI. CHINA, NOW.

THE CLIENT WILL CONTACT YOU WHEN YOU'VE LANDED.

E 36th St

FOURTEEN HOURS AGO.

THAT'S ABOUT *ALL* I KNOW.

YOU'VE MADE YOUR POINT, ISAIAH. BUT I'VE WORKED WITH THESE GUYS BEFORE I HIRED YOU. THEY'RE DIRTY, BUT THEIR ENEMIES ARE WORSE.

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT SOMETIMES IT IS THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS IN THIS JOB.

I SAID MY PIECE, MA'AM.

PICKING YOUR OWN JOBS MEANS YOU GET TO EXERCISE YOUR OWN ETHICS.

BUT ETHICS ISN'T A SCIENCE.

WHICH IS TO SAY...

YOU DO YOUR BEST...

BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE YOU *RIGHT*

L. DECTUS

Julu Road

Changle Road

SHANGHAI

Changle Road

Xinle Road

Gaolan Road

Middle

South

MISS WIDOW.

PLEASE, MR. LIN, NO NEED FOR FORMALITY. YOU KNOW ME TOO WELL FOR ***FORMALITIES.***

NATASHA, TELL ME OF YOUR LIFE. ALL IS, I TRUST, WELL?

YOU ALSO KNOW ME TOO WELL FOR ***SMALL TALK.***

A DEAR COLLEAGUE OF MINE IS MISSING. SOMETHING, I FEAR, HAS HAPPENED.

YOU SEE A PICTURE OF MY COLLEAGUE THERE.

ADDITIONALLY, A PICTURE OF WHAT MAY BE AT WORK.

THESE MEN LIVE ABOARD A BOAT, A GRAND BOAT, AND THEY SMUGGLE WEAPONS INTO THE CITY. HE VISITED THEM THERE. I UNFORTUNATELY CANNOT APPROACH...

YOU UNDERSTAND THE POLITICS. THESE MEN ARE VERY EVIL, BUT I CANNOT ATTACK THEM OPENLY IN MY OWN CITY.

I WILL FIND YOUR SON, MR. LIN.

I DIDN'T SAY--

I KNOW YOU TOO WELL, ALSO, MR. LIN.

JOBS CAN FEEL FAMILIAR, BUT FAMILIARITY IS A DANGEROUS FEELING

THAP THAP

IN ESPIONAGE AND MERCENARY WORK, THERE'S NO SUCH THING AS *ROUTINE*

AND SO HERE, I'M MAKING MY SECOND MISTAKE

THIS FEELS FAMILIAR, BUT NOT FAMILIAR ENOUGH

I SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED THE BLACK SEA JOB

WHERE IS EVERYONE?

I WOULD HAVE GOTTEN A BAD FEELING LONG BEFORE NOW

СКОРПИОНа...?

CRAP.

NO SITUATIONAL AWARENESS MY SECOND MISTAKE...

...MY FIRST MISTAKE WAS THINKING THIS JOB WOULD BE EASY

"I'M SORRY, I CANNOT DISCLOSE THAT INFORMATION TO YOU, MR...?"

NEW YORK.

AAMES. I REPRESENT A PRIVATE PARTY WHO WISHES TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

I SEE. WELL, AS I SAID, I CANNOT DISCUSS OR EVEN ACKNOWLEDGE MY CLIENT'S TRAVEL RECORDS TO YOU. OF COURSE.

YOUR CLIENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR A SIGNIFICANT LOSS OF PROPERTY. WE'RE SEEKING RESTITUTION AND FOR BOTH OF OUR SAKES, WE WOULD PREFER TO KEEP THIS OUT OF THE COURTS.

I'M SURE YOUR CLIENT'S REPUTATION IN THE PAPERS WOULD SUFFER IF WE DID SO. AS WOULD THAT OF THE AVENGERS...

THE BURDEN OF PROOF LIES WITH YOU, MR. AAMES. I CANNOT DISCUSS MY CLIENT'S BUSINESS--PRIVATE OR WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES--WITHOUT A SUBPOENA.

AND GOOD LUCK WITH ONE.

WELL, MR. ROSS. I'D HOPED WE COULD SETTLE THIS PRIVATELY.

RENEE, YES, NOW. PUT A BUG ON THE CAR.

LET'S FIND OUT WHAT THIS GUY IS REALLY AFTER.

LIN? HELLO?

TAKING THE WRONG JOB OFTEN MEANS COLLATERAL DAMAGE.

LIN....

SCRATCH

YOU ARE...

...TO KILL...

...QUITE DIFFICULT...

NATASHA.

BUT YOUR GADGETS AND TOYS....

...ARE USELESS WHEN...

...SO EASILY...

DECEIVED.

...YOU ARE...

HE'S NOT WRONG

新廣南

UMPH.

OW.

THIS WAS MY THIRD MISTAKE

I THOUGHT I COULD WIN THIS FIGHT.

WE HAVE CERTAINLY FOUND THE BLACK WIDOW.

WHAT I KNOW IS SHE IS OUT OF TOWN NOW. IF WE KEEP AN EYE ON THE LAWYER, WE WILL KNOW WHEN SHE GETS BACK.

AND YOUR PLAN IS WHAT?

WHEN SHE GETS BACK, WE BLACKMAIL HER FOR THE MONEY.

SHE'LL PAY?

SHE'LL PAY. SHE KILLED OUR EMPLOYER, SO WE WILL MAKE HER PAY.

OKAY. SO WHAT OF THE LAWYER?

HIM? YOU TWO WILL KILL HIM. BUT WE NEED ALL THE MONEY FIRST. HE HAS THE POCKETBOOK, NOT HIS CLIENT.

WHAT IF WE KILLED HIM FIRST FOR LEVERAGE? A THREAT? THAT'S WHAT THE BOSS WOULDA DONE.

IT MIGHT ENCOURAGE HER TO COME BACK QUICKLY.

THE WIDOW. THE RUSSIAN AVENGER. THE SLAVIC SHADOW. THE RED DEATH.

THEY HAVE SO MANY NAMES FOR YOU.

YOU ARE HIS SERVANT...

"A DISGUISE, WIDOW."

YOU CAN CALL ME IRON SCORPION.

THE IRON SCORPION WAS A CODENAME FOR A TARGET...

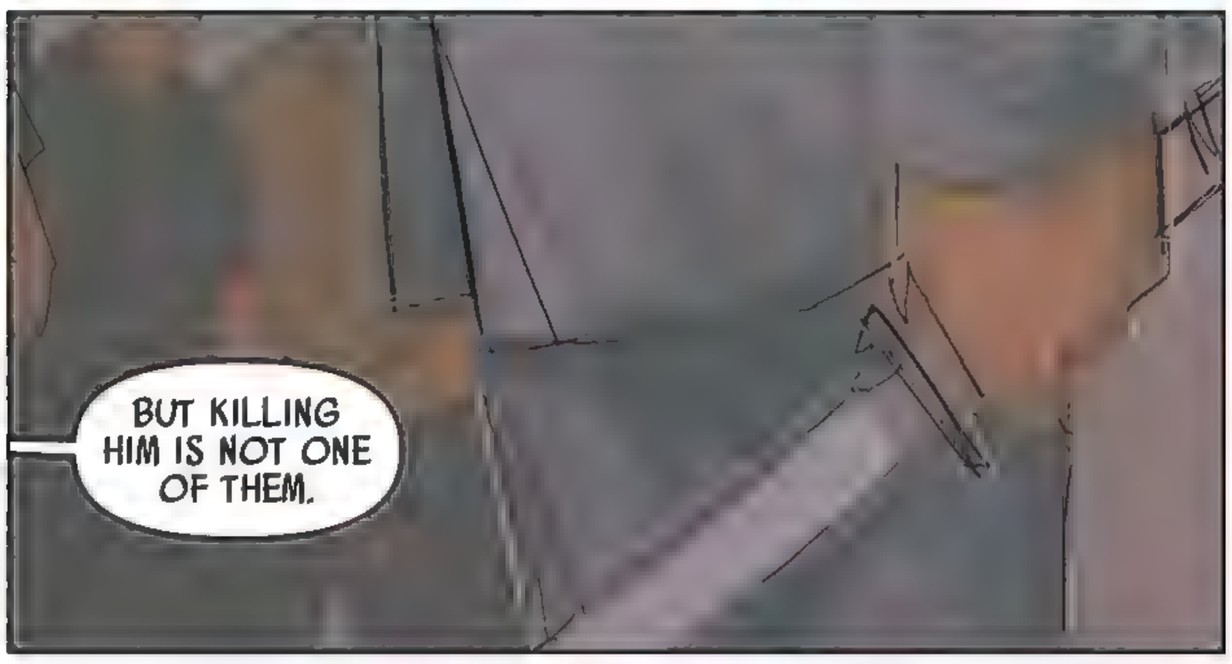
"SIX YEARS AGO, ON THE BLACK SEA..."

MY BROTHER.

YOU'VE KILLED SO MANY, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU WOULD REMEMBER.

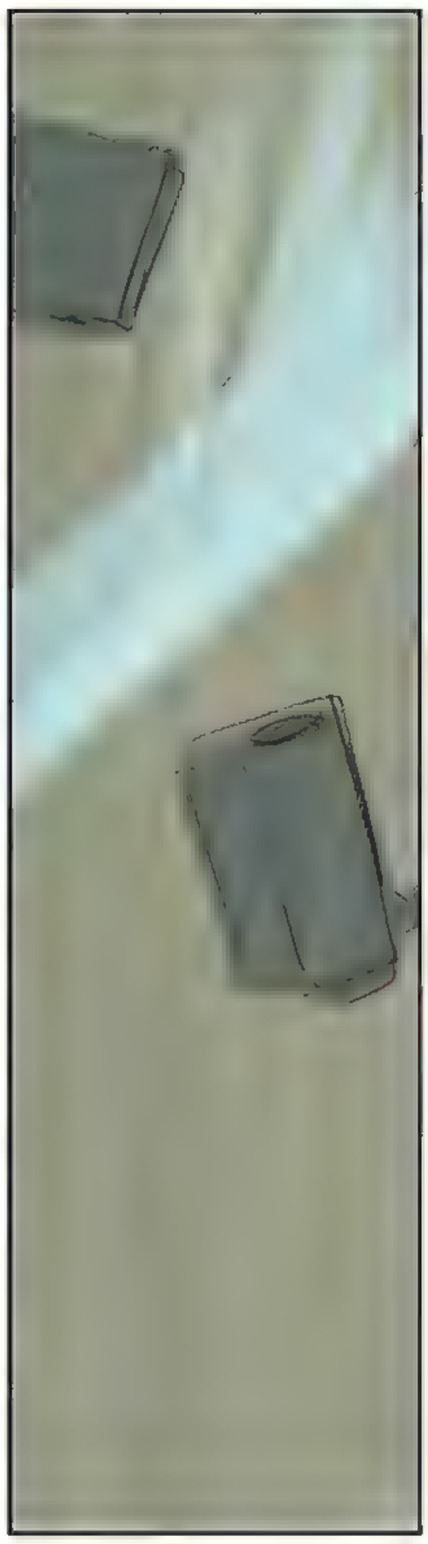
I REMEMBER THAT JOB.

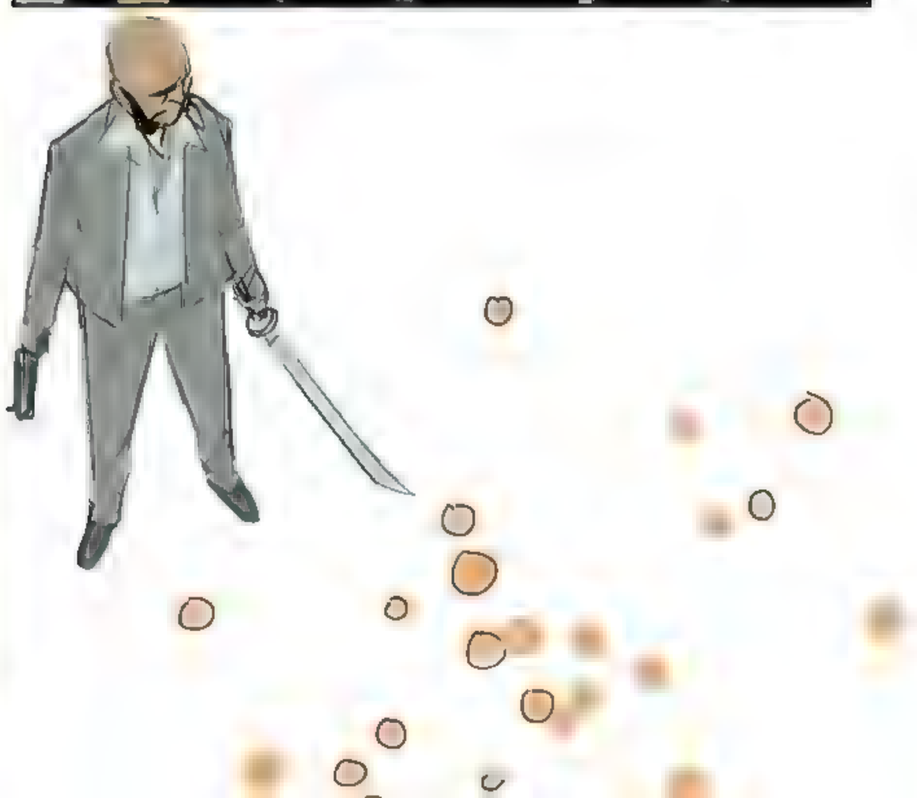
AND I HAVE MANY PAST REGRETS.


BUT KILLING HIM IS NOT ONE OF THEM.

住手!

NOR YOU.





WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, LITTLE SPIDER...

...YOU HAVE NO WEAPON, NO FRIENDS...

HERE.

I DO HAVE...

ONE REGRET:

I HESITATED.

YOU MURDERED HIM!

CRACK

YOUR BROTHER WAS A MURDERER.

I'M A KILLER.

SEMANTICS. YOU CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST.

MY PAST IS MY OWN.

RAW

I WON THE FIGHT.

BUT THE IRON SCORPION IS STILL OUT THERE.

HE'LL FIND ME AGAIN. I CAN COUNT ON THAT.

THAT'S MY FOURTH MISTAKE...

...BUT I'M DONE COUNTING FOR TODAY.

NINE HOURS LATER.

HOW WAS IT?

WELL, WE CAN KEEP THE ADVANCE. OTHER THAN THAT...

YOU ARE AWARE, AREN'T YOU, THAT THE AVENGERS DON'T PAY ENOUGH?

I'M AWARE.

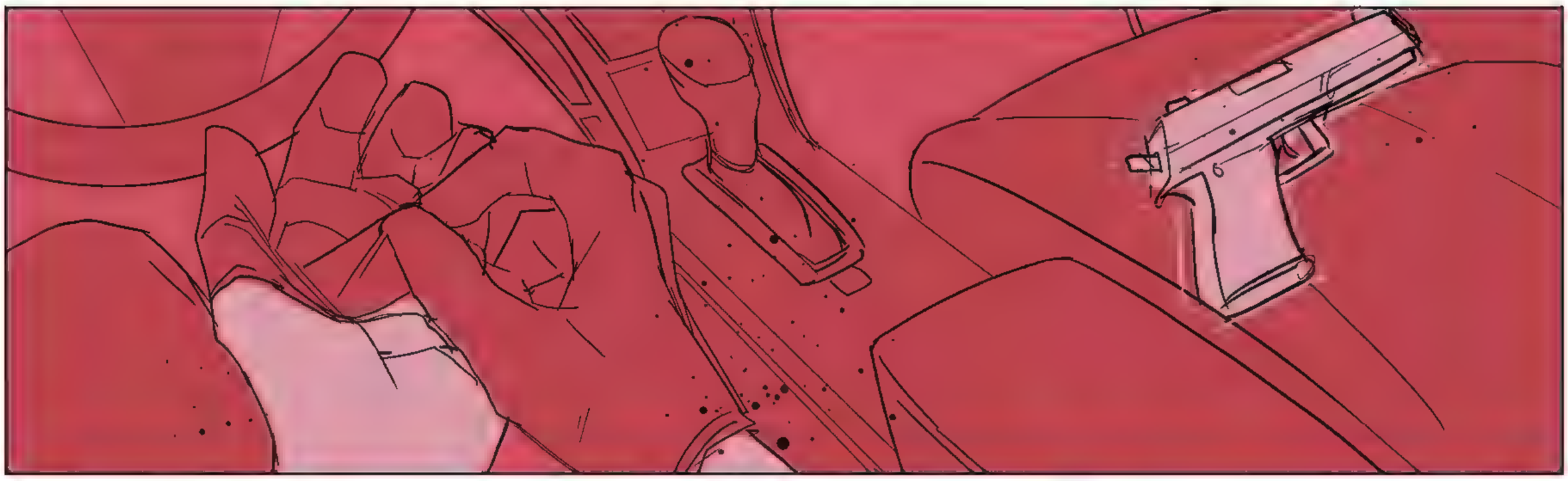
AND YOU'RE ***ALSO*** AWARE THAT THIS ***WEB*** YOU'VE HAD ME MAKE FOR YOU ISN'T CHEAP? BRIBING OFFICIALS IN TWENTY COUNTRIES TO MAKE--

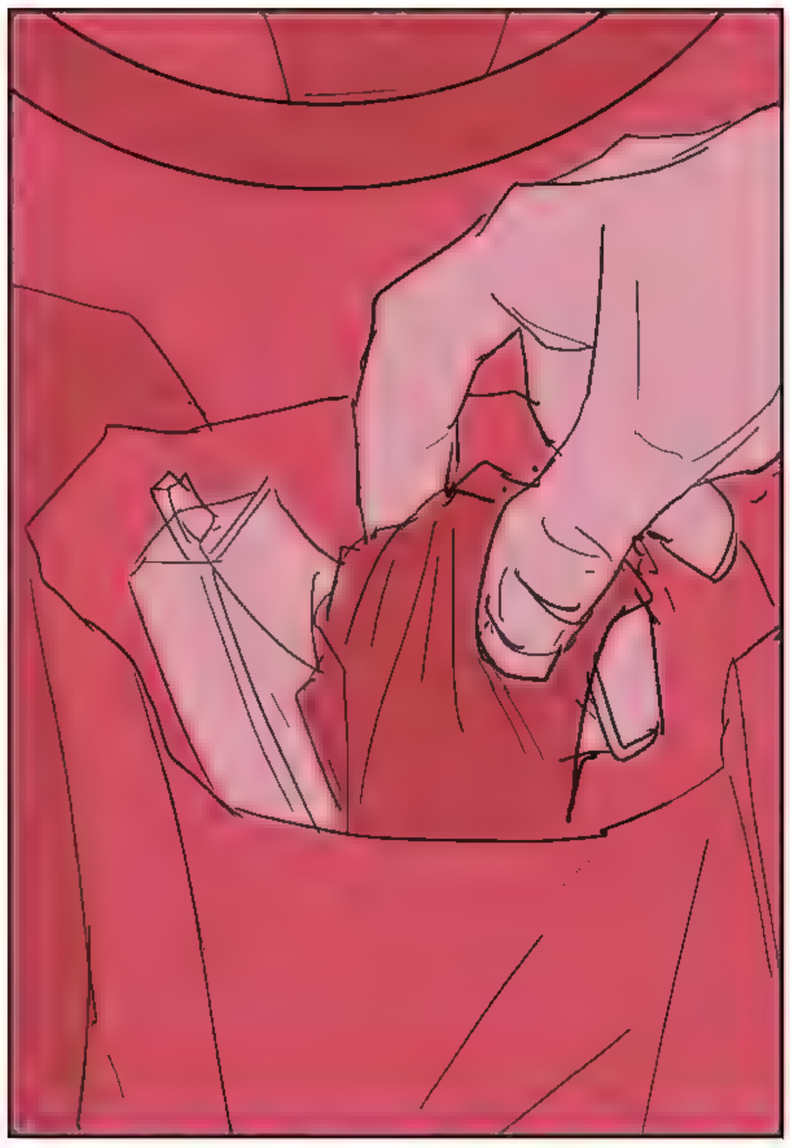
JUST DRIVE. I DON'T WANT TO TALK ABOUT MONEY RIGHT NOW.

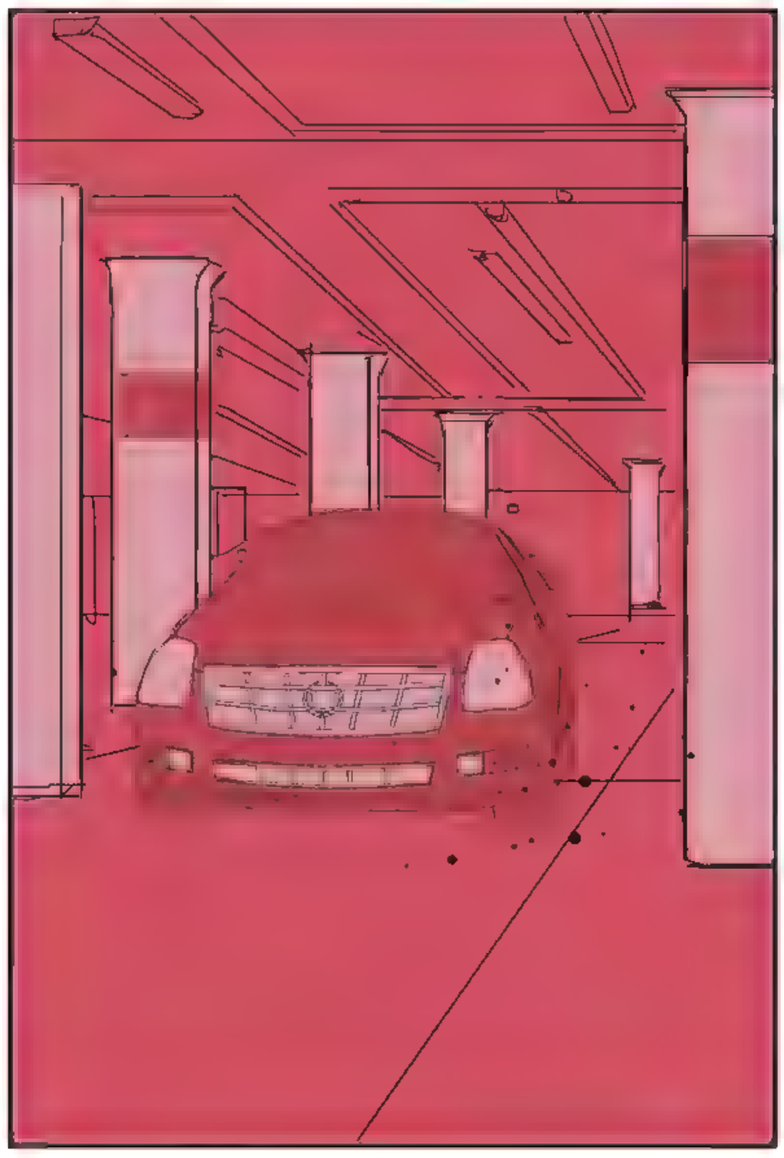
SO. HOW WAS YOUR WEEK WHILE I WAS AWAY?

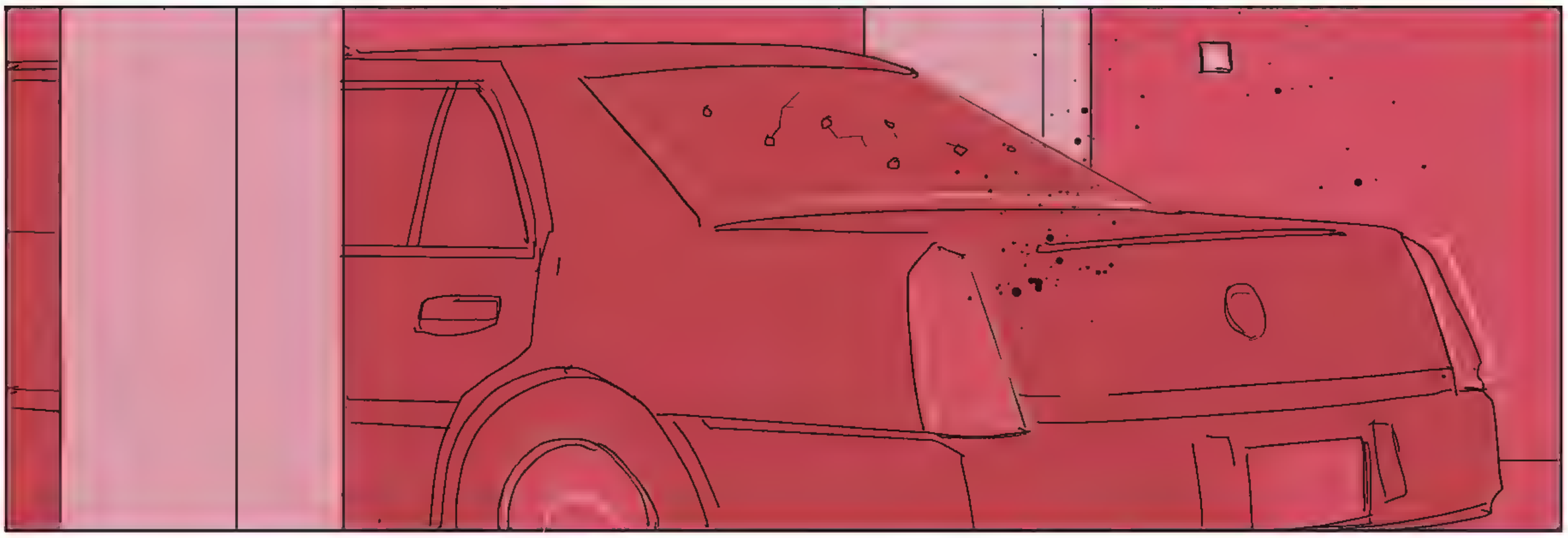
THE USUAL. I TOOK CARE OF BUSINESS.

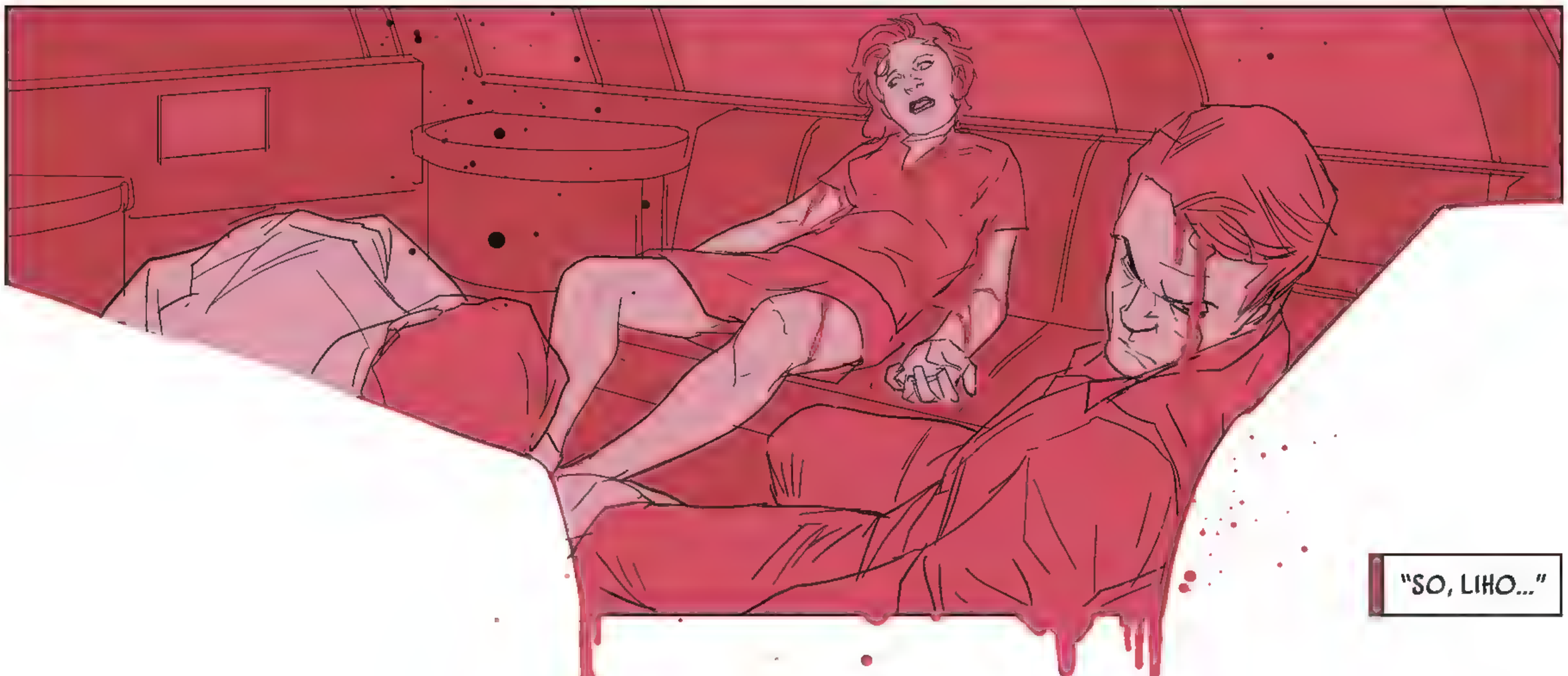
NINE HOURS AGO.










"SO, LIHO..."

...YOU'RE STILL HERE.

THIS STRAY IS STICKING AROUND, THANKS TO YOU.

A LONELY NEIGHBORHOOD FOR A CAT, I SUPPOSE, ANA.

YES. A LONELY NEIGHBORHOOD. FOR ALL CREATURES. BUT THIS ONE WAITS FOR YOU, I THINK.

MEEEOW

I CAN'T LET YOU IN, I'M SORRY.

THAT'S ONE MISTAKE I WON'T MAKE TWICE.

TO RUSSIAN, WITH LOVE...

ELLIE PYLE — editor
AXEL ALONSO — editor in chief
JOE QUESADA — chief creative officer
DAN BUCKLEY — publisher
ALAN FINE — exec. producer

Welcome back, Widowers!

(Stephen Wacker suggested that nickname. I'm still not sold.)

No more letters yet because as I write this issue, #1 still hasn't gone on sale. So let's take this time together to appreciate the gorgeous variant covers to our first three issues:

#1 - J. SCOTT CAMPBELL

#1 - MILO MANARA

#1 - SKOTTIE YOUNG

#2 - FRANK CHO

#3 - J.G. JONES

NEXT:

I'm going to be honest with you all: I think issue #3 is my favorite issue thus far. So see you back here in just TWO WEEKS (then we'll slow down and ship monthly for the foreseeable future, I promise)!

Said with a smile,
Ellie Pyle

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ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

003

EDMONDSON
NOTO

BLACK WIDOW

NATASHA ROMANOV IS AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN EX-KGB ASSASSIN, BUT ON HER OWN TIME, SHE USES HER UNIQUE SKILL SET TO ATONE FOR HER PAST. SHE IS:

BLACK WIDOW

"FOLIAGE"

NATHAN EDMONDSON
WRITER

PHIL NOTO
ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

ELLIE PYLE
EDITOR

J.G. JONES
VARIANT COVER ARTIST

AXEL ALONSO
EDITOR IN CHIEF

JOE QUESADA
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER

DAN BUCKLEY
PUBLISHER

ALAN FINE
EXEC. PRODUCER

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I DON'T HAVE A HOME.

A HOME IS A DISTRACTION.

TRAVELING AGAIN? MORE OVERSEAS CONSULTS?

IN MY WORK ONE CANNOT HAVE DISTRACTIONS.

CONSULTING, YES, OFF TO CATCH THE REDEYE, ANA.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?

I WOULDN'T NECESSARILY KNOW A HOME IF I HAD ONE, THOUGH

I HEAR YOUR CAT LIHO. SHE WHINES AT DOOR FOR YOU.

SHE'S NOT MY--

ANA, HOW MANY TIMES HAVE I TOLD YOU TO *LEAVE* HIM?

EH, LEAVE TO GO WHERE?

THIS IS HOME.

GOOD NIGHT, NATASHA. I HOPE YOU HAVE GOOD FLIGHT.

SOUTH OF RESISTENCIA, ARGENTINA.

<BACK TO YOUR CELLS!>

WHAT THERE IS OF MY HEART IS IN MY WORK, NOT ON A DOORMAT.

¡VAMOS!

I HAVE MET OPERATIVES WHO HAVE FAMILIES AND LIVES BEYOND THE FIELD. (THESE OPERATIVES DO NOT LIVE LONG.)

HEY!

WHAT YOU CARRY WITH YOU, IT WEIGHS YOU DOWN, DOWN, DOWN.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THIS IS MY--

QUIET.

I AM.

YOU'LL DO WHAT I SAY, ANGELO. I'M GETTING YOU OUT OF HERE.

YOU MIGHT THINK I'M COLD-HEARTED.

I CAN'T AFFORD DISTRACTIONS.

I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

HOW ARE WE GETTING OUT?

PRISONS NEED MY PERMISSION TO HOLD ME, *AMIGO*.

DID YOU BRING WEAPONS, AT LEAST?

THE ONLY ONE I NEED.

COME QUICKLY.

MY FRIENDS, THEY SENT YOU FOR ME?

WE HAVE A SMALL WINDOW AND THEN A LOT OF JUNGLE. COME **ON**.

AND THEN WHAT IS THE PLAN?

THEN, YOU'RE GOING HOME, ANGELO. YOU'VE DONE ENOUGH TIME FOR THE CRIMES YOU DIDN'T COMMIT. OR DO YOU WANT TO STAY LONGER?

WOOT WOOT WOOT

THE SECRET'S OUT. QUICK NOW.

YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO DO WHAT I SAY, *CLARO?*

WE HAVE TO CROSS THE JUNGLE, AND THEN YOUR FRIEND VINCENTE WILL HAVE A ***HELICOPTER*** WAITING FOR US AT THE HILLTOP ROAD.

IF YOU DO ***EXACTLY*** AS I SAY, WE'LL BE FINE.

BEEP

CRACK CRACK

YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE ***GUNS*** FOR US?

YOU MAY HAVE BEEN WRONGFULLY IMPRISONED, BUT THESE GUARDS ARE ONLY DOING THEIR JOB. I DON'T INTEND TO ***KILL*** ANYONE TODAY, *SEÑOR.*

BUT DON'T WORRY. I'M VERY GOOD AT WHAT I DO.

I'D BETTER BE, FOR THE MONEY YOUR FRIENDS ARE PAYING ME.

AND I ***REALLY NEED*** TO GET PAID, SO CALL ME MOTIVATED.

...WHEREVER I GO, THAT IS MY HOME.

SO MY THOUGHTS CAN BE IN THIS JUNGLE AND NONE OTHER.

AND LIKE IT IS MY HOME, I *KNOW* THIS PLACE. LIKE THE CREAKING OF AN OLD APARTMENT--

--I KNOW WHICH SOUNDS DO NOT BELONG.

SNAP

HEAD NORTH. RUN TO THE CREEK.

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

GOING TO TEND TO THE YARD, *AMIGO*. NOW GO.

ACK!

OKAY.

WOOF! WOOF!

AH.

PARA! MANOS EN SU CABEZA!

POR FAVOR...

AGH!

HEY, POOCH.

FUEY ES DAS! RUHIG SEIN!

I KNOW YOU. YOU KNOW ME.

VOLNO. GUTE HUND.

ONE WITH THE ENVIRONMENT

—ONE OF THE MOST VALUABLE SKILLS IN ESPIONAGE

YOU CAN GEAR UP WITH THE BEST SWAG OUT THERE—

—PUT ON CAMO TECH, WEAPONRY

—BUT IT IS THE UNTEACHABLE SKILL TO BELONG ANYWHERE

THE OTHER EDGE OF THAT IS THE UNFORTUNATE TRUTH:

YOU MUST FIRST BELONG NOWHERE

AH!

HOLD ON.

I'M SORRY. I WAS TRYING TO DEFEND MYSELF. HE FELL.

...

WE CAN'T WAIT. WE HAVE TO CROSS THE CREEK. WE'RE ALMOST THERE.

WE'LL CROSS UP AHEAD. WE DON'T WANT TO END UP IN SOME CROCODILE'S *ASADO*, DO WE?

I PREFER A GOOD *MILANESA*--

IT WAS RHETORICAL, ANGELO. COME ON.

THAT'S OUR CONTACT, HE'S--

I KNOW HIM. YES.

VINCENTE, OLD FRIEND.

LOBO BLANCO, HEMOS ENTUSIASMO QUE ESPERABA.

WHY DO I KNOW THIS NAME?

THE WHITE WOLF...

SEÑOR, THE MEN ARE--

YES, YES YES. PLENTY OF TIME TO TALK ABOUT THAT LATER.

HOME FIRST. AND LET'S GET THIS GIRL PAID!

SHE'S BEEN WORTH EVERY PENNY, WHATEVER HER PRICE WAS. MATADOR, *COMO NOS MISMOS.*

DOESN'T MIND GETTING HER HANDS DIRTY, DO YOU?

VINCENTE, RADIO AHEAD, WHEN WE GET HOME I WOULD LIKE SOME GIRLS WAITING. LET'S MAKE THEM YOUNG. ALSO, SOME CHICKEN WINGS AND... MAYBE SOMETHING SWEET FOR DESSERT?

SI, SEÑOR.

COME ON NOW. THE GUARDS AREN'T FAR BEHIND US, AS YOU KNOW.

LOBO BLANCO...

HOW DID I MISS IT?

THE SIGNS WERE THERE.

A DESK OF TRIBUTES FROM OTHER INMATES_ PROTECTION PAY

A DISREGARD FOR LIFE... A DISINTEREST IN DANGER_

A MURDER

I MAY NOT HAVE KNOWN WHO HE WAS, BUT I WOULD HAVE KNOWN HE IS NOT WHO THE CLIENT CLAIMED.

AT LEAST, THAT IS NOT ALL HE IS

YES, HE WAS IMPRISONED ILLEGALLY FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT...

BUT BEFORE THAT, *LOBO BLANCO*, THE BUTCHER OF ARGENTINA...

...I MISSED IT. **DISTRACTED**

I WAS GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE.

I WAS MORE THAN A BUTCHER.

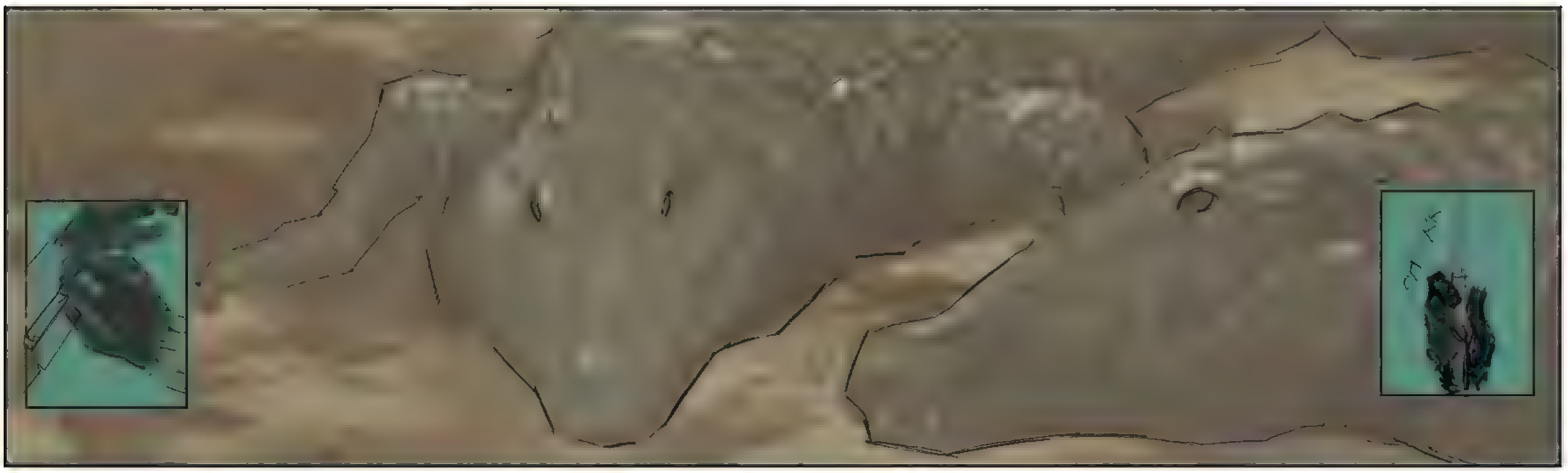
BUT THIS IS MY HOUSE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SOME *HOUSECLEANING.*

ACK!

SORRY, LOBO.



A GOOD OPERATIVE KNOWS HIS ENVIRONMENT- HIS HOME.

HE KNOWS WHICH CREATURES ARE DOCILE-

AND WHICH ARE DANGEROUS

BUENOS AIRES.

CRAWLING BACK ONTO MY WEB

THIS COULD BE HOME

NATASHA. IF YOU'RE CALLING ME FROM YOUR WEB, THEN I THINK IT'S SAFE TO ASSUME THE JOB WENT SOUTH.
WHICH MEANS, I ASSUME, YOU WON'T GET PAID FOR IT?
WHICH MIGHT TO SOME BEG THE QUESTION OF HOW YOU'RE PAYING FOR YOUR INTERNATIONAL WEB OF SAFE HOUSES AND--

I'M FINE, BY THE WAY, ISAIAH. THANK YOU FOR ASKING.
IF YOU'D BEEN KILLED, AT LEAST I COULD COLLECT THE INSURANCE POLICY.
OH, YOU'LL GET THAT WISH SOON ENOUGH. BUT FOR NOW...
I NEED AN EXTRACTION.

AND YOU'LL HAVE ONE. FROM S.H.I.E.L.D.
S.H.I.E.L.D.?
YOU'RE NEEDED. THEY WILL HAVE DETAILS, AND THEY WILL HAVE A JET FOR YOU THERE IN TWO HOURS.
AND NATASHA...

"...MONEY ASIDE, YOU MADE THE RIGHT CALL."

DIRECTOR HILL.

MISS ROMANOV. GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US.

WE BELIEVE SOMEONE AT THE UKRAINIAN EMBASSY IS BEING TARGETED.

WE HAVE VERY LITTLE INTEL BEYOND THAT.

SO WE WANT YOU TO GET IN THERE AND FIND OUT *WHO* THE TARGET IS, AND WHY.

ALL WE HAVE IS A DECRYPTED SATELLITE RADIO COMMUNICATION...

*=BEEP= IDENTIFY HIM AT THE EMBASSY IN TWO DAYS. TAKE CARE OF IT THERE. WE MUST PROTECT OURSELVES FROM **CHAOS**--FEAR IT. =BEEP=*

I WOULD LIKE TO DROP BY MY APARTMENT FIRST. GET SOME GEAR...

TAKE CARE OF SOMETHING.

FINE. WE'D LIKE YOU THERE BY TOMORROW MORNING. WE'LL STOP OVER.

UNFORTUNATELY, I ADMIT, I *DO* HAVE A HOME. I HAVE ALWAYS HAD A HOME.

EVEN IF IT IS NOT APPARENT TO ME OR ANYONE ELSE.

HOME IS WHERE THE *HURT* IS.

THAT MIGHT BE THE JUNGLE. IT MIGHT BE BACK ON THE STREETS OF MY BIRTH CITY. IT MIGHT BE HERE.

AND EVERY HOME--

...HAS DANGEROUS PREDATORS OF ITS OWN.

KNOCK

NATASHA, I--

MOVE ASIDE, ANA.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN MY--

KNOCK

I'M A COLD-HEARTED PERSON.

SO I'LL MAKE IT QUICK AND SIMPLE.

IF YOU *TOUCH* THAT WOMAN AGAIN, I WILL PUT MY FOOT THROUGH YOUR *SPINE* SO FAST YOU WON'T REALIZE WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE YOU WAKE UP *PARALYZED*, SUCKING SOUR MILK THROUGH A *STRAW*.

PONIMAYESH?

GACK-- ACK--YES. YES!

YOU SHOULD STILL LEAVE, ANA.

NOT REALLY HOME. JUST GRABBING SOME THINGS. SORRY.

MEEEW

HOME, PERHAPS
BUT IF IT IS
ONLY UNTIL THE PAIN SUBSIDES

TO RUSSIAN, WITH LOVE...

ELLIE PYLE editor | **AXEL ALONSO** editor in chief | **JOE QUESADA** chief creative officer | **DAN BUCKLEY** publisher | **ALAN FINE** exec. producer

Welcome back!

As I write this, Black Widow #1 has been on sale for approximately 30 hours and Nathan, Phil and I have already been overwhelmed and overjoyed by your response to this book!

Dear Nathan, Phil and Ellie,

Great job with Black Widow #1! I was expecting great things because of this creative team and the character, and this issue was even better than I imagined. You did a fantastic job portraying Black Widow, with her withdrawn attitude and desire to make amends for her past. I only ask that we see more of Liho the cat. I'm sure Clint Barton will stop by to make sure Liho has enough food when Natasha is out of town on her "business trips."

Thanks,
Aaron Gordon
Buffalo, New York

I am so happy that I have another Natasha solo series to look forward to, and with such fine writing and beautiful art, I know it will be a fantastic run!

I must admit I am still hoping to see Nat and Bucky reunite after the events of the Winter Soldier volume, and would love to see Natasha be the one to fix the "fridged" girlfriend plotline she was given...

Anyways--I am thrilled to have Natasha back! Thank you always for keeping her perfect.

Maddie Specht

Dear Black Widow Team,

I enjoyed #1 a lot more than I was expecting/hoping to (my wallet is empty enough as it is). Nathan Edmondson and Phil Noto have introduced me to a character that I (and I'm sure a lot of other people) never really knew much about outside of The Avengers movie (and also from a brief, somewhat exaggerated cameo in the 2002 Punisher game). Honestly, non-Sean Connery-related spy stuff has never really been my cup of tea but this issue managed to spark interest in me on a whole 'nother level. Noto's photo-realistic artwork combined with Edmondson's subtle, yet vivid writing made me feel as though I were watching an early '60s spy movie coming to life in print.

On top of that, Natasha has proven in one issue to be a heroine more interesting than I ever anticipated she could be, and I hope to see more of her and her home life in future issues: It's really cool how Clint Barton's civilian life is presented routinely in "HAWKEYE", and it's the little moments of downtime -- like the ones shown between Natasha and Liho in the last few pages of Black Widow #1 -- that can make you feel for a character.

Speaking of other Marvel series, can we expect to see any mini-crossovers in the coming months? Similar to how "THE SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN," "HAWKEYE," and "THE INDESTRUCTIBLE HULK" have incorporated other characters into their story arcs? I know a lot of Marvel heroes are being relocated to other parts of the US, but it'd still be fun to see the Black Widow interact with other NYC-based characters like (sorry for mentioning him so much) Hawkeye, or Spider-Man, or even Daredevil before he swings off to Cali.

Lastly, in regards to the christening of the fans, "Widow-fans" has a real nice ring to it and all, but I think something simple like "Widowers" would work better. Just my two cents. You can thank me later though if you end up going with it.

Reed Gill
Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada

Thanks, Aaron, Maddie and Reed! I'm going to go ahead and address this up front: we have no immediate plans to see any of the once or future men in Black Widow's life, but hang in there! Nathan certainly knows that Bucky, Hawkeye, and that blind redheaded lawyer (who always has MY heart) are out there, and that there are great stories with them to be told. You may start to see some familiar faces in the second arc, but first and foremost, this is NATASHA'S book, and Nathan and Phil are going to keep the focus completely on her for at least the first six issues. Besides, at the moment she can't even commit to a cat. Baby steps!

Dear Marvel,

Was thrilled to see Natasha get her own title again - as a big fan of the last solo Widow title, I'm very excited to see a new one. And what a start she has - worldbuilding, character, emotion, action, and intelligence (in all senses of the word). Plus the neat short in POINT ONe (with the clever comment on Phil Noto's great artistic history in the "Bird" line).

Can't wait for the 22nd!

Ian
@ibmmiller

Dear Widow Team,

Can I just say how excited I was for this title and I was not disappointed at all. Marvel Comics in general has always produced well-written female characters but Natasha has always been one of my favorites and I loved seeing this side of one of my favorite characters. Thank you!!!

Cassie Scaman

Dear Marvels,

Black Widow is off to a fantastic start. It was beautiful to see a Natasha Romanov solo story where she didn't need to weaponize her sexuality and her costume remained practically zipped the entire time. Natasha is a chameleon, a master of disguise, and "femme fatale" is a face she wears sometimes, but one of many. She's a spy that makes James Bond look like Maxwell Smart, and it's great just to see her in action.

Doubly so to see her go home afterwards and embark on a complicated relationship with a cat.

My only question: why did Natasha take out her ponytail before the big goon fight? On TV action heroines, loose hair is typically to make it easier to hide the stunt doubles, but I'm guessing Nat insists on doing all her own fights.

Nevertheless, wonderful work from all involved, and especially from Mr. Noto!

Sincerely,
John Derrick

I'm going to let Nathan field this one: Actually, Phil's art is so precious that we can't risk having his illustrated Natasha do her own stunts. So we use secondary drawings for the dangerous action sequences, so as not to risk Phil's perfect rendering of the lead. The loose hair helps to disguise this fact. Interesting tidbit: one of our stunt illustrated characters also stunted in THUNDERBOLTS!

Dear BLACK WIDOW Ops Team,

BLACK WIDOW #1 is an excellent comic! Black Widow is a great character, and it's awesome that she has her own comic with a talented creative team. Nathan Edmondson is a fantastic writer who knows how to write compelling espionage adventure comics. Phil Noto is so good at capturing the dynamic action and character details that the story demands. This comic is very cool.*

*ATTENTION S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENTS – I've encoded a secret message about Black Widow in the above paragraph. Read the first word in the first sentence, then the second word in the second sentence, and so on to decode the message.

Reed Beebe
Kansas City, MO

I just finished reading BLACK WIDOW #1. It's quite gorgeous - one of the most beautiful recent comics I've picked up. I had no idea Phil Noto was this good.

Here's what I'm worried about, though. It seems like there have been quite a few Marvel books lately that have launched with great art from well-known artists, but within a few issues, the artist gets replaced and the art gets way less interesting. Like Brian Wood's X-MEN, where Olivier Coipel was gone after three issues.

So I guess what I'm saying is, I intend to stick with BLACK WIDOW for as long as Noto is drawing it, and probably no longer. (And if Greg Land ever starts drawing it, then I'll wish I'd never picked up a single issue. Eww, horrible thought.)

I would love it if BLACK WIDOW could continue in something like the way HAWKEYE has been going - as a book with a unique visual style that makes it special.

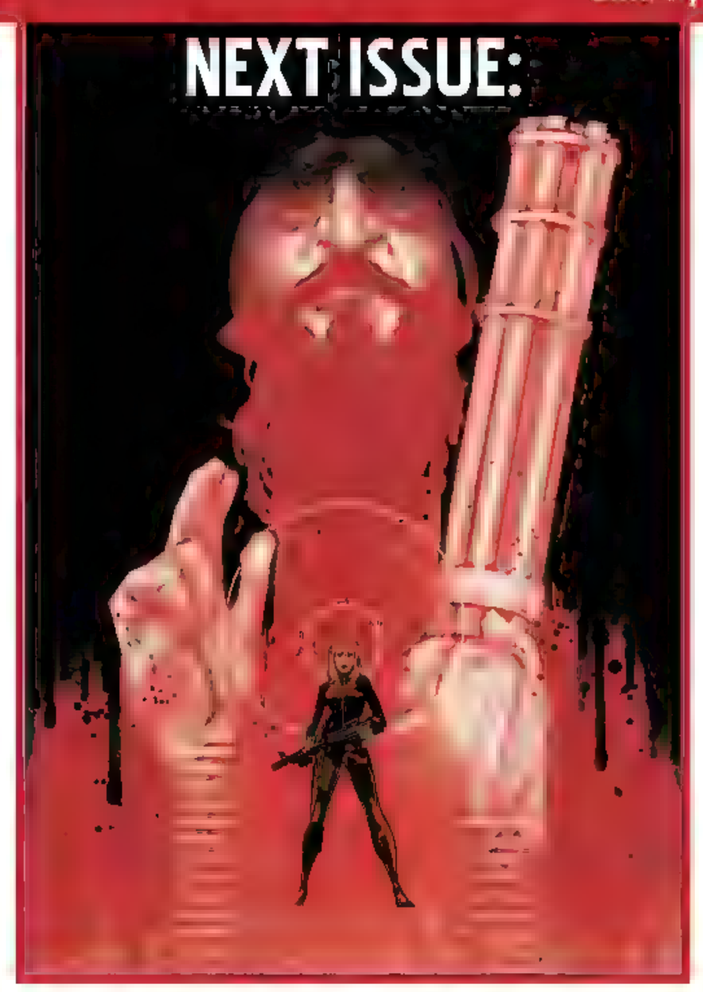
Anyway, thanks for reading this, and for putting out such a lovely comic. I hope it sells well.

Tom D.

Fear not, Tom! Our plan is to have Phil draw this book pretty much forever.

And speaking of the future, we'll be back next month to find out what exactly that embassy mission Maria Hill mentioned is all about. Until then, keep those letters, tweets and art coming!

Said with a smile,
Ellie Pyle



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BLACK WIDOW

NATHAN EDMONDSON • PHIL NOTO

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

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THEY ARE DANGEROUS.

WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF THEM BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.

THEY HAVE *SINNED.*

THEY ARE-- YES, SURE. THEY HAVE.

THEY ARE SINNERS. THEY'VE SINNED. AND THEY HAVE TO BE *PUNISHED*, MOLOT.

YOUR WORD IS LIKE *FIRE* TO ME. I SHALL BE YOUR *HAMMER* THAT BREAKS THE ROCK INTO PIECES.

...

OKAY. GOOD. JUST, MOLOT...

...HAMMER THEM *HARD*. THEY ARE TOO DANGEROUS TO LIVE.

WORKING FOR S.H.I.E.L.D. PAYS NEXT TO NOTHING.

BUT AT LEAST SOMETIMES, IT'S TOTALLY *BORING*

THE HEAD OF SECURITY WILL MEET YOU INSIDE, AGENT ROMANOFF. YOU'RE A ***SECURITY CONSULTANT***, HERE TO SELL A NEW MOTION SENSOR SYSTEM.

PLANT THE BUGS, LEARN WHAT YOU CAN.

UH-HUH. ANY IDEA WHAT ***KIND*** OF "*MOTION SENSOR SYSTEM*"?

I THINK THERE'S SOME INFORMATION IN THE BROCHURES IN THERE.

OH, SUPER.

GOOD LUCK, AGENT ROMANOFF.

PLEASE, JUST CALL ME "*NUMBER 25225.*"

TR-590 MOTION SENSOR SYSTEM

BORING.

BEST TO REMEMBER THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. IS A BUREAUCRACY. WHEN YOU START TO ARGUE, YOU ONLY GET TANGLED UP IN RED TAPE.

BUT THEY'RE BETTER THAN THE *OTHER* DIRECT-ACTION, COVERT-INTEL BUREAUCRACIES. USUALLY.

ONCE YOU'VE FOUGHT OFF INVADING ALIENS FOR THEM, SOMETIMES DOING S.H.I.E.L.D.'S GROUND-LEVEL WORK CAN BE TEDIOUS.

BUT THE TRUTH ABOUT INTELLIGENCE GATHERING? THE DEVIL IS IN THE DETAILS.

SO YOU CAN'T MISS A *SINGLE* DETAIL OR--

YOU MIGHT MISS THE DEVIL HIMSELF...

MY EARS RING...

MY BODY IS NUMB...

BUT IMMEDIATELY I WONDER...

DID THEY KNOW?

AGENT ROMANOFF!

CALL DIRECTOR HILL! *I'M IN PURSUIT.*

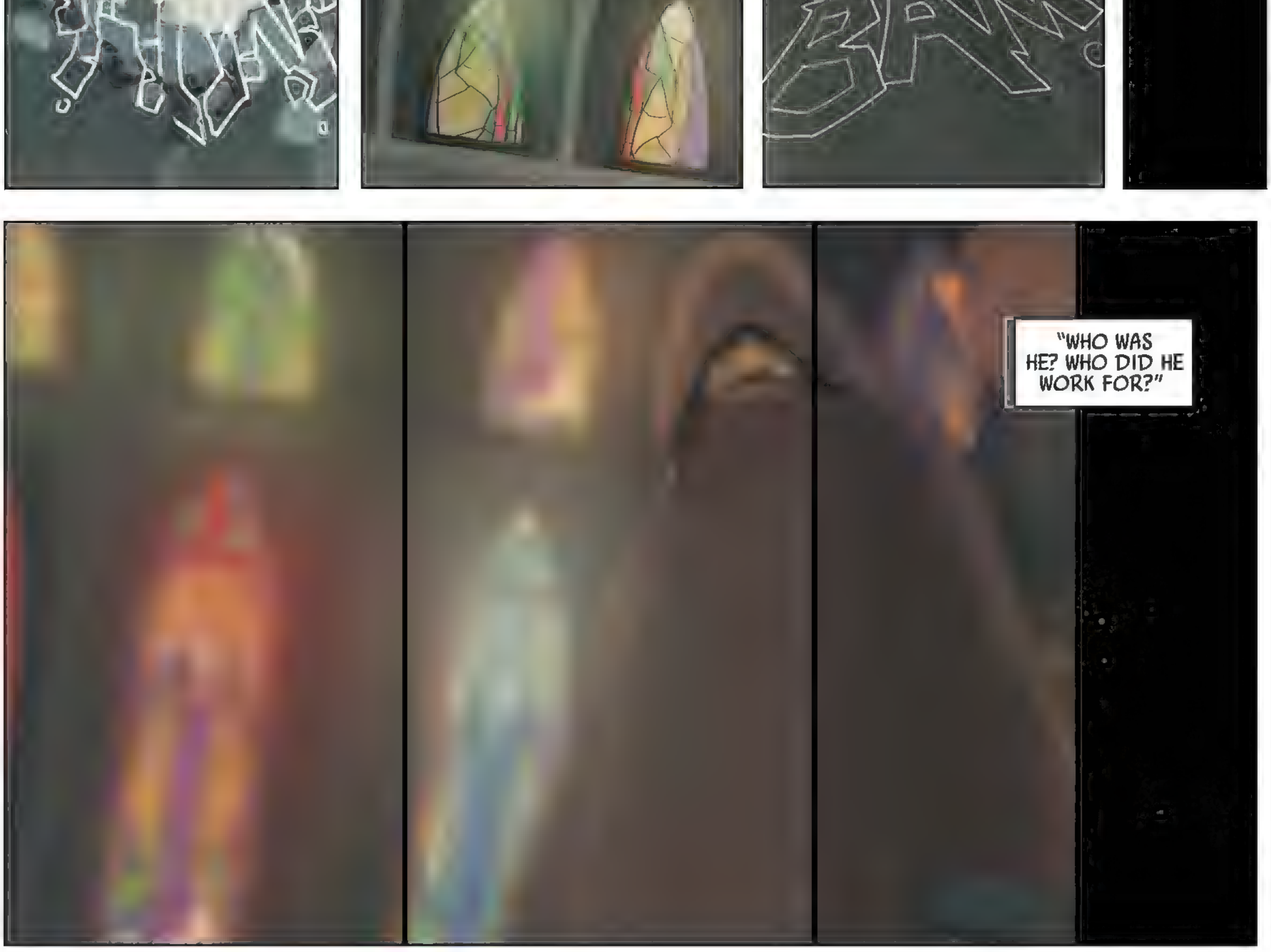
WHOEVER HE IS, HE'S A *COWARD.*

AND I'VE GOT HIM.

WHERE DID YOU GO?

CIOAo.

KUCHH
YEP,
BORING.


"WHO WAS HE? WHO DID HE WORK FOR?"

ALL I KNOW IS HE IS *RUSSIAN*, DIRECTOR. I COULD NOT EVEN TELL YOU FROM WHAT REGION. HE ONLY SAID ONE WORD.

HE BLEW UP THE ENTIRE EMBASSY...

THEY ARE MAKING A *STATEMENT*, BUT TO WHOM? AND...

WHO ARE *THEY*? "*FEAR THE CHAOS.*" WHAT DOES THAT EVEN MEAN?

WE NEED TO QUESTION THE AMBASSADOR'S PEOPLE.

WE CAN'T. THEY'VE DENIED US ACCESS.

WHY?

THAT IS AN INTERESTING QUESTION. AND ONE THAT S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS ANSWERED.

...SO, HOW CAN YOU MANAGE WITH THE ARM?

I CAN MANAGE.

GOOD. BECAUSE WE NEED YOU TO GET SOME ANSWERS...

WITHOUT ASKING ANY QUESTIONS.

CABINET OF MINISTERS.
KIEV, UKRAINE.

A DISCONNECTED, BLOODY TRAIL...

SHADOW WARFARE. POLITICAL TARGETS.

BZZZZ

IT'S COLD WARFARE.

BUT NO ONE TOLD ME THERE WAS ANOTHER COLD WAR.

...IT'S A PROBLEM WE MUST *SOLVE*. THAT IS WHY.

THE PROBLEM *DIED* WITH THE AMBASSADOR!

YOU **KNOW** WHAT HE WAS INVOLVED IN, AND YOU KNOW WHAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF! IT WILL NOT END WITH HIM.

HE SAID CHAOS WOULD FOLLOW.

YES, YES, WE'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE. BUT THIS MAN IS NOT **INDESTRUCTIBLE**. IF WE SEND A TEAM AFTER HIM...

IF THE TEAM FAILS?

WELL. WHAT DO YOU RECOMMEND?

WHAT THIS ***MOLOT BOGA*** DID CONSTITUTES AN ACT OF WAR. HE BLEW UP AN EMBASSY. THIS IS NOT PERSONAL, IT IS A NATIONAL--

HE IS A ***HITMAN***. NOTHING MORE. AND FROM WHAT WE HEAR--

--HIS NEXT TARGET IS THE CROATIAN AMBASSADOR; HE'S IN CAPE TOWN THIS WEEK AND--

WE DO NOT GO AFTER MOLOT. LET HIM CLEAN UP THIS EMBARRASSING MESS SO NONE OF IT CAN BE CONNECTED BACK TO THE AMBASSADOR.

HE HAS CAUSED US ENOUGH DAMAGE ALREADY.

"MARIA--

"IT APPEARS THE EMBASSY BOMBING WAS A *HIT*. A HIT ON ONE MAN."

"ONE MAN? THAT'S HEAVY-HANDED."

"IT IS."

"WHAT'S NEXT?"

"ANOTHER TARGET. SOUTH AFRICA."

"GOOD. USE THE S.H.I.E.L.D. CREDIT CARD, BOOK A FLIGHT--"

"WAY AHEAD OF YOU."

CAPE TOWN.

DRIVER, WE CAN GO.

ONE BENEFIT OF GOVERNMENT WORK? FREQUENT FLYER MILES.

SERIOUSLY, I GET BUMPED UP ABOUT EVERY FLIGHT. STILL NOT AS NICE AS THE DIRECTOR'S *PRIVATE JET* THOUGH...

ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE IN A RUSH...

...AS ***DIPLOMATICALLY PROTECTED BAGS*** FULL OF SPY EQUIPMENT ALWAYS CAUSE DELAYS.

AND RIGHT NOW, I AM ***DELAYED***. AND I'M AFRAID OF WHAT I MIGHT BE LATE FOR.

WHAT'S HAPPENING UP THERE?

NOT SURE, MR. AMBASSADOR-- THERE'S SOMEONE IN THE ROAD.

"WELL DRIVE AROUND HIM! WE'RE RUNNING LATE AS IT IS."

"IT'S A BIT OF A JAM, SIR."

CLEANSE ME, FOR I HAVE NEVER DONE ANYTHING GOOD IN YOUR SIGHT.

YOU LIVEST IN THE HIGHEST AND CAREST FOR THE HUMBLE...

LOOK UPON YOUR SERVANT.

OH MY GOD.

BRTRTRTRT

RTRTRT

HE IN WHOM THERE IS NO CHANGE NOR SHADOW OF VARIATION...

BANISH FROM ME, THY LOWLY AND WRETCHED SERVANT, ALL--

SOMEHOW I THINK GOD CANNOT HEAR YOUR PRAYERS, MONK--

THAT IS, OVER THE SOUND OF YOUR HUGE ASS MACHINE GUN.

DO NOT INTERRUPT THE RIGHTEOUS WORK OF THE HAMMER OF GOD--

BRINGING HIM IN ALIVE MAY NOT BE AN OPTION.

BRTRTRTRTRTRTRTRTRT

HAMMER THIS.

CHOH CH

--THEY EVENTUALLY RUN OUT OF LEAD.

(UNLIKE ALIEN PLASMA WEAPONS OR LASERS OR WHATEVER.)

WELL...HE HAS TO RUN OUT *SOMETIME,* RIGHT?

CHCHG CH CHG CHC HG

THE THING ABOUT LEAD-SPITTING WEAPONS--

THE TOOL OF THE ALMIGHTY DOES NOT DULL, DOES NOT RUST--

YOU ONLY MAKE ME *STRONGER.*

IRON SHARPENS IRON.

ESPECIALLY WITH ONE BUSTED ARM.

...KILLING HIM MIGHT NOT BE AN OPTION EITHER.

AAAAAA

CLIK
CLIK

AH, THERE WE GO.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

IT'S TWO AGAINST NONE NOW, PAL. STAND DOWN OR I SHOOT--

TWO AND ALSO TWO.

AMAZING WHAT COMES TO MIND IN THE HEAT OF THE MOMENT: I CAN'T HELP BUT THINK THAT *SO MUCH* ABOUT THIS IS ALL, ALL WRONG.

I'M A *SPY*. NOT SOME ROOFTOP-JUMPING *ARCHER*, *SHIELD-WIELDING* SUPER-SOLDIER, OR SHINY-METAL *PHILANTHROBOT*.

I NEED TO MAKE THAT CLEAR ON MY BUSINESS CARD. ESPIONAGE IS *SHADOW WARFARE*.

COLD COMBAT.

CHOK

CHOK

DOES ANYTHING ABOUT THIS FEEL COLD TO YOU?

KA

CLEANSE US OF EVERY IMPURITY, ALMIGHTY ONE.

=COUGH COUGH=

SOMETIMES, I WISH THIS JOB WAS A BIT MORE BORING.

I WILL SEE THIS THROUGH.

I WILL FIND HIM.

WE CAN CALL IN THE AVENGERS.

TO WHAT EFFECT? TO CLEAN THE WRECKAGE FROM THE STREET? TEND TO THE WOUNDED? BANNER GOING TO APPLY SOME BAND-AIDS?

MARIA, NOT BECAUSE I ***WANT*** THE JOB, BUT YOU NEED A SPY TO TRACK THIS GUY DOWN. HE DISAPPEARED THAT EASILY BECAUSE HE HAS ***SUPPORT***. I MEAN, CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG BUT--

YES, HE HAS SUPPORT. HE GOT AWAY IN THIS. A HELICOPTER WE CAN'T IDENTIFY THAT DISAPPEARED OVER THE MOUNTAINS, HEADED NORTHEAST.

WE HAVE NO INFORMATION. WE NEED THE BEST SPY OUT THERE.

WHERE WILL YOU START?

I THINK I'LL PICK UP ONE OF THE UKRAINIANS AND ASK A FEW QUESTIONS.

AND I DON'T INTEND TO BE ALL THAT ***NICE*** ABOUT IT.

WHEN YOU NEED THEM, AGENTS ARE AT YOUR DISPOSAL.

AND ANY SPECIAL GEAR YOU'D LIKE?

AS A MATTER OF FACT... YES. I'LL GIVE YOU A LIST.

AND I NEED TO USE A PHONE... MINE MELTED.

YOU HAVE SOMEONE WHO CAN LOOK INTO THE HELO?

THERE IS SOMEONE. A RAVEN.

...THE *GIRL* NEARLY STOPPED US. BUT I COMPLETED THIS TASK.

I FULFILLED YOUR GOOD PURPOSE.

MOLOT, YOU MUST STOP CONFUSING MY COMMANDS WITH THOSE OF YOUR GOD.

OKAY? PLEASE.

YES.

NOW, THERE IS ONE MORE. ONE MORE WHO MUST BE ERASED, ERADICATED, BURNED OUT, KILLED, DESTROYED.

ONE MORE ***SINNER*** WE MUST SEND TO HELL IN ORDER FOR US TO BE FREE, MOLOT.

YOU KNOW OF WHOM I SPEAK. AND YOU KNOW HOW HARD IT IS TO GET TO HIM. I RECOMMEND THE AIRPORT, KILL HIM BEFORE HE LANDS.

IF THE GIRL APPEARS AGAIN, KILL HER SWIFTLY.

BUT DO NOT FAIL TO DESTROY THE PLANE...

GOD WILL ACCEPT THE CASUALTIES.

BLACK WIDOW

NATHAN EDMONDSON - PHIL NOTO

ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

CAPTAIN AMERICA
THE WINTER SOLDIER
IN THEATERS APRIL 4

NATASHA ROMANOVA IS AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN EX-KGB ASSASSIN, BUT ON HER OWN TIME, SHE USES HER UNIQUE SKILL SET TO ATONE FOR HER PAST. SHE IS:

BLACK WIDOW

WHILE ON A MISSION FOR S.H.I.E.L.D., NATASHA ROMANOVA WITNESSED AN EMBASSY BOMBING. SHE CHASED DOWN THE MAD MONK RESPONSIBLE TWICE, BUT BOTH TIMES THIS SELF-TITLED "HAMMER OF GOD" WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE BY KNOCKING HER UNCONSCIOUS. SHE DOES NOT LIKE LOSING.

"FOR THE BIRDS"

NATHAN EDMONDSON
WRITER

PHIL NOTO
ARTIST

VC's CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER & PRODUCTION

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OUTSIDE PARIS.

IN POLITICS, POWER IS INFLUENCE

IN ESPIONAGE, POWER IS INFORMATION

INTEL

SO WHAT CAN YOU TELL ME?

OH, NATASHA. ALWAYS *ALL BUSINESS*. YOU SHOULD ENJOY YOUR CAREER MORE, *JE CROIS*.

THOUGH, FROM THE LOOKS OF YOUR ATTIRE--AND CAR--I PRESUME YOU'RE STILL TRYING *DESPERATELY* TO PAY FOR YOUR PAST SINS BY PROVIDING FOR *ALL* THOSE FAMILIES. VRAIMENT?

WE CAN'T ALL AFFORD TO BE AS MORALLY BANKRUPT AS YOU ARE, *TORI RAVEN*.

HM.

YES, WELL. I DID FIND YOUR MAN, NATASHA. THOUGH I MUST SAY I'M NOT SURE HE'S THE TYPE TO TAKE HOME TO *TA MÈRE ET TON PÈRE*.

HIS NAME IS MOLOT BOGA, OR "*HAMMER OF GOD.*"

"HE WAS ONCE A RUSSIAN ORTHODOX MONK, IF YOU CAN BELIEVE IT. THOUGH HE WAS KICKED OUT OF HIS ORDER FOR VIOLENT MOOD SWINGS, I'M TOLD. AND BEING...

"...UNORTHODOX.

"HE'S DEVOUT BUT ABOUT AS THEOLOGICALLY CORRECT AS A TEMPLAR KNIGHT. USES HIS ***DEVOTION*** TO FUEL ACTS OF VENGEANCE AND VIOLENCE...

"APPARENTLY ALL MOTIVATED BY SOME TRAUMA FROM HIS YOUTH, FAMILY KILLED OR SOMETHING, BLAH BLAH BLAH--"

YOU KNOW? YOU TWO MIGHT BE GOOD FOR EACH OTHER AFTER ALL. A LOT IN COMMON.

DO YOU KNOW WHO HE'S WORKING FOR? OR WHERE HE IS?

WHO HE'S WORKING FOR...NOW THAT'S THE TRICKY ONE. CAN'T ANSWER THAT ONE FOR YOU.

BUT AS FOR WHERE HE IS?

IN ABOUT TWO HOURS HE'LL BE BLOWING UP AN AIRLINER AT GATWICK AIRPORT.

HURRY ALONG, LITTLE SPIDER...

HE WHO HAS THE INFORMATION HAS CONTROL

THE MORE CONTROL THE INFORMATION OFFERS—

—THE MORE IT IS WORTH

AND IN SHADOW WARFARE, THE WORTH OF INFORMATION IS MEASURED IN LIVES *TRADED* FOR IT.

I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE TO GET THE INFORMATION I HAVE NOW

BUT PERHAPS IF I HAD--

—I WOULDN'T BE RUNNING LATE

TOO LATE

STOP!
PUT DOWN THE
WEAPON!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

NOOOO!

THE ONLY THING WORSE THAN NO INTEL
IS OLD INTEL

AN ENTIRE PLANE FULL OF PEOPLE

KRA

SKKRRE ETTG

AND SUDDENLY I DON'T CARE ABOUT GATHERING INTEL ANYMORE

HYUH!

THE INSTRUMENT OF GOD CANNOT BE--

YOU KNOW, MOLOT--

BAM

--I'M FAIRLY SURE IT'S NOT *GOD'S* WORK YOU'RE DOING.

THEY MUST BE PUNISHED FOR THEIR SINS.

PRO TIP: (OFTEN LEARNED TOO LATE) DON'T ARGUE WITH CRAZY.

JUST EXPECT CRAZY...

BAMM

...TO BE &@#$%&# INSANE.

BOOM

GET TO THE PASSENGERS!

WHEN YOU TAKE STOCK YOU ASK YOURSELF--

WAS IT THE FAULT OF THE INFORMATION, OR IS IT *MY* FAULT?

AND YOU HOLD YOUR BREATH AND HOPE THE SURVIVORS FAR OUTNUMBER THE--

WHAT ON EARTH?

ONE MAN. AN ENTIRE FLIGHT FOR ONE MAN.

WE KNOW LESS THAN WE DID AN HOUR AGO...

VODKA

...AND THUS WE'RE POWERLESS.

IMPOTENCY DOES NOT SUIT ME.

BEEP BEEP

ISAIAH

YOU GOT HIM, AGENT.

ONLY TOOK ME THREE FAILURES, DIDN'T IT? SOME KIND OF REPRESENTATIVE OF S.H.I.E.L.D. I'VE BEEN TODAY.

WELL. *AS* SUCH, S.H.I.E.L.D. NEEDS YOUR SERVICES FOR JUST A MOMENT LONGER.

TODAY, *MARIA*.

THE PASSENGER REFUSES TO TALK. HE'S ONLY ASKED FOR *PROTECTION*.

I'VE GOTTEN CALLS FROM A DOZEN DIPLOMATS ALREADY. WE'LL HAVE TO LET HIM GO IN AN HOUR OR SO. BEFORE THAT, WE NEED SOME *INFORMATION* FROM HIM. WE'RE DRIFTING NOW.

AND YOU THINK I CAN SUCCEED WHERE YOU FAILED?

I AM NOT PAID FOR UNCERTAINTY, AGENT. DO YOUR THING.

IS SOMEONE COMING TO--

QUIET, PLEASE.

IS SOMEONE COMING FOR ME? I HAVE TO LEAVE SOON. I'M NOT *SAFE.*

WHAT PART OF *QUIET* IS UNCLEAR?

YOU MUST LET ME GO.

IS THAT SO?

HE WILL *COME* FOR ME.

YOU MEAN COMRADE GROUND BEEF? NOT LIKELY. HE WAS STRONG, BUT A *737* TURBINE...YIKES.

YOU FOOL. THE MONK WAS BUT A FINGER OF THE HAND!

THIS PLACE IS NOT SAFE FROM *HIM!* HE'S INDESTRUCTIBLE!

WHO IS *HE*, THEN?

CAN YOU STOP HIM?

YES, I CAN.

NO, YOU CAN'T.

WHAT-- NO--

HELP! GET US SOME HELP IN HERE!

SOMEHOW, WE KNOW LESS AND LESS EVERY MOMENT

IT'S A SINKING FEELING. LIKE FINDING OUT YOU AREN'T THE TOUGHEST PREDATOR IN THE JUNGLE.

OUR IMPOTENCY INCREASES.

HOW CAN WE KNOW NOTHING?
WE HAVE THIS PASSENGER'S NAME...
...BUT NOT A SINGLE DETAIL ABOUT WHO PAID FOR HIS FLIGHT--*EVERY SEAT* OF HIS FLIGHT.
NO *IDEA* WHO HE'S STILL RUNNING FROM. SO, *NOTHING.*
MAYBE WE CAN TRACE THE HELICOPTER. IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT WE CAN LOOK FOR IT.
RING RING
FOR YOU.
CAN THE ITSY BITSY SPIDER COME OUT THE WATER SPOUT FOR A MOMENT?
S'IL TE PLAÎT?

BUSINESS IN LONDON? OR HERE TO GLOAT?

GLOAT? BY NO MEANS. I *WANTED* YOU TO CATCH THE MONK. I'M SORRY YOU WERE LATE.

I UNDERSTAND THINGS HAVE NOT GONE WELL WITH THE MYSTERIOUS PASSENGER, *NON?*

HOW COULD YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY?

YOU'LL WANT TO GO TOWARD MONTENEGRO NEXT, DEAR FRIEND. I'D FLY YOU THERE BUT *MY* HELICOPTER, YOU KNOW...WAXING.

WHAT'S IN MONTENEGRO?

GAMBLING, NATASHA. BUT IT'S ALL *HIGH DOLLAR*, NOT YOUR THING.

NEVERTHELESS, I DIDN'T SAY *IN* MONTENEGRO. YOU'LL WANT TO GO *NEAR* IT. THE COAST.

YOU RECOGNIZE YOUR MYSTERIOUS STEALTH HELO, *OUI?* WELL. *VOILA.*

WHO IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS?

I'M NOT THE WONDERFUL WIZARD, NATASHA. JUST A MERCHANT, TRADING IN INFORMATION.

NOW YOU HAVE THE KEY, SO YOU GO UNLOCK THE DOOR.

CIAO.

12 HOURS LATER.
OVER THE OCEAN, MONTENEGRIN COAST.

A S.H.I.E.L.D. QUICK RESPONSE FORCE IS STANDING BY...

DO *NOT* SEND THEM UNTIL YOU HAVE MY SIGNAL. WE SPARE AS MANY LIVES AS POSSIBLE.

NEW INFORMATION = NEWLY ARMED.

LOCKED AND LOADED.

WE NOW KNOW SOMETHING NEW, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS

AT LEAST WE ARE AHEAD, AT LEAST WE HAVE TIME ON OUR SIDE

I DON'T MIND RUNNING INTO THE UNKNOWN

OR EVEN SWIMMING

JUST SO LONG AS I KNOW IN WHICH DIRECTION THE UNKNOWN LIES

I SUDDENLY HAVE THAT SINKING FEELING AGAIN.

YEAH.

BLIND INTELLIGENCE IS LIKE AN UNPROVEN WEAPON.

IT SOMETIMES LEAVES YOU S.O.L.

IF YOU TRY TO MOVE, YOU WILL DIE.

THESE LASERS CAN HIT SOMETHING FIFTY FEET BELOW THE SURFACE.

COME ON. THE BOSS WILL DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.

NATALIA ROMANOVA, IS IT?

NOW SOMETHING BECOMES CLEAR...

...I'VE PUT WAY TOO MUCH TRUST IN INTELLIGENCE--

--AND NOT NEARLY ENOUGH IN MY GUT INSTINCT.

I'M IN OVER MY HEAD, AND I HAVE NO ONE TO BLAME BUT MYSELF.

MISS NATASHA, YOU COME HERE, I HOPE, WITH SOME NEWS FOR ME.

DAMON DRAN?

YES, OLD FRIEND.

AND YOU HAVE ENDANGERED MY LIFE COMING HERE, *BLACK WIDOW.*

WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

THE RAVAGES OF THE WORLD, NATASHA. THE FORCE OF CHAOS.

EVEN *INDESTRUCTIBILITY* MEETS ITS OWN END...

DON'T LET HER DIE UNTIL YOU HAVE AT LEAST A FEW ANSWERS FOR ME!

AND READY THE DEFENSES. LOOK TO THE SEA AND THE SKY, PEOPLE--

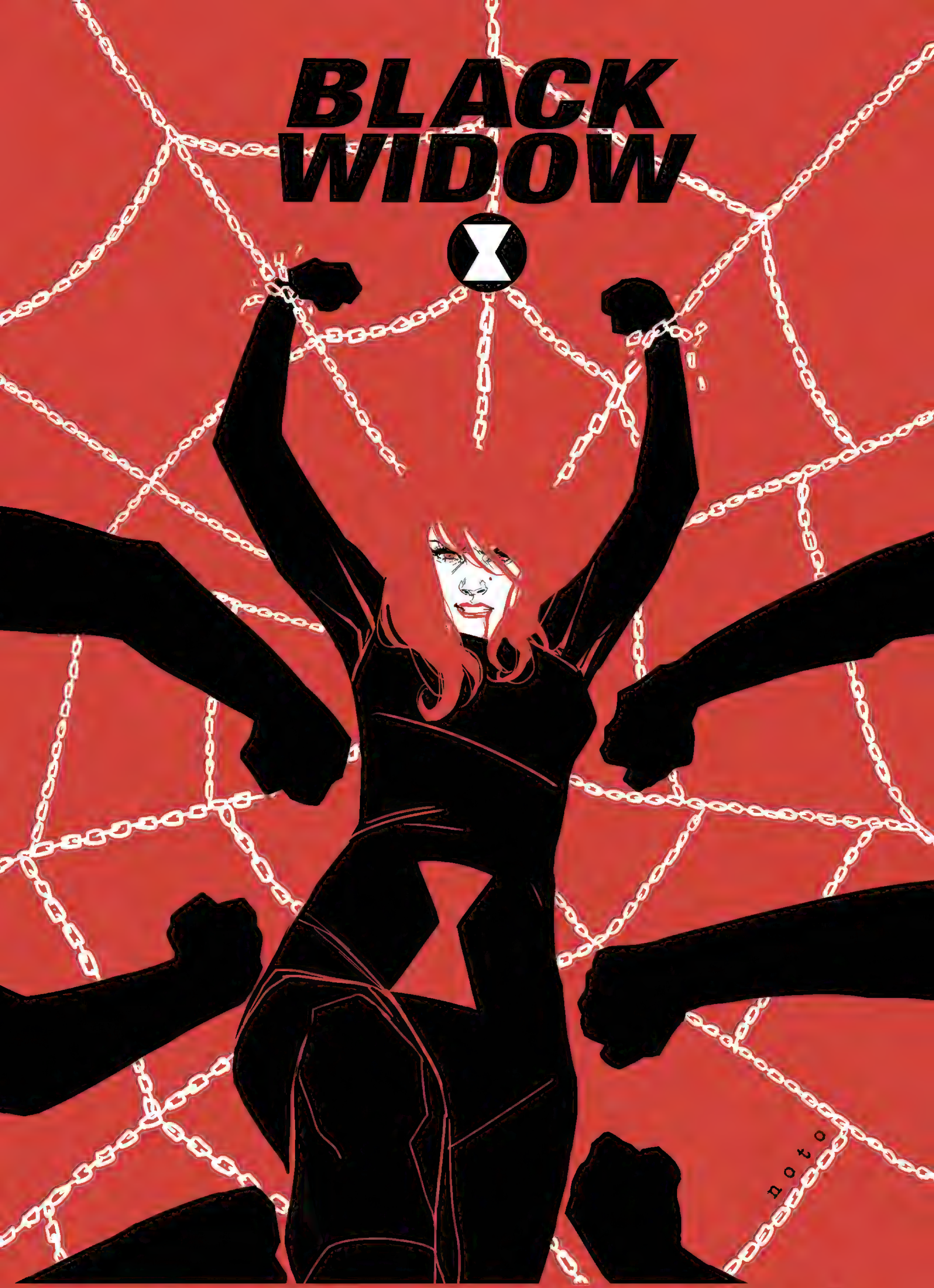
CHAOS WILL FALL UPON US LIKE ACID RAIN!

WHAT HAS THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN SHAKING IN A HYPERBARIC CHAMBER?

DRAGGING ME AWAY TO BE TORTURED IN THE BOWELS OF A SHIP?

THIS IS WHAT BAD INTEL GETS YOU

BLACK WIDOW



ALL-NEW MARVEL NOW!

EDMONDSON
NOTO

006

NATASHA ROMANOVA IS AN AVENGER, AN AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D. AND AN EX-KGB ASSASSIN, BUT ON HER OWN TIME, SHE USES HER UNIQUE SKILL SET TO ATONE FOR HER PAST. SHE IS:

BLACK WIDOW

NATASHA TRACKED MOLOT, THE MAD MONK ASSASSIN KNOWN AS THE "HAMMER OF GOD," BACK TO HIS BOSS, ONLY TO DISCOVER THAT IT'S HER OLD ENEMY DAMON DRAN, THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN, LOOKING MUCH MORE... DESTRUCTIBLE. SHE WAS CAPTURED IN THE PROCESS.

"PARANOIA"

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POW
I AM ALONE

I'VE REFUSED TO SPEAK, SO THEY'LL BEAT ME UNTIL I'M DEAD. THAT MUCH IS CLEAR.

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED ABOUT THEM?

THEY'RE FRIGHTENED. OF THEIR BOSS, AND OF SOMETHING ELSE.

THESE AREN'T PUNCHES OF ANGER, THEY'RE PUNCHES OF DESPERATION.

I'VE BEEN HIT ENOUGH TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE.

I ALSO KNOW THAT THESE MEN ARE ALONE.

ALONE. LIKE ME.

WHAT THESE UNFORTUNATE MEN DO NOT KNOW ABOUT *ME*, THOUGH...

...IS A BLACK WIDOW, DANGLING BY HERSELF ON A SINGLE THREAD...

...IS A DEADLY THING.

BAM!

WHACK!

POW

BLAM

BLAM

A REALLY DANGEROUS THING.

I'M NOT THE *ONLY ONE* ISOLATED ON THIS SHIP.

THEY ARE ALL AFRAID OF THEIR BOSS...

DAMON DRAN. THE INDESTRUCTIBLE MAN.

IMPENETRABLE SEEMS MORE APT NOW THAN *INDESTRUCTIBLE.*

BUT NOT UNTOUCHABLE...

WHAT IS *HE* AFRAID OF?

CLANG

HE HEALETH THE AFFLICTED.

UH...

CLANG

BANG

BANG

CHING.

AS IRON SHARPENS IRON--

--YOU HAVE MADE THIS MAN STRONGER THAN EVER BEFORE.

CR-INK

HE MAY USE YOU, THOUGH YOU ARE *UNRIGHTEOUS* IN HIS EYES.

CLUNK

KYUH!

BUDDY, WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THIS GUY?

I OWE MY LIFE TO *HE* WHO SAVED ME.

IT'S BEEN FIVE HOURS.

WE HAVE TO TRUST BLACK WIDOW NOW.

WE WAIT FOR HER SIGNAL. SHE WAS CAUGHT JUST LIKE SHE ANTICIPATED.

DIRECTOR HILL, THEY'RE MOVING WESTWARD.

IF THEY HAVE MILITARY SUPPORT--

WE TRUST IN OUR AGENT.

AND IF SHE DOESN'T--

LIKE ALL OF YOU, SHE'S A DENIABLE ASSET, AGENT.

THIS ISN'T THE RED CROSS.

BLAM BLAM

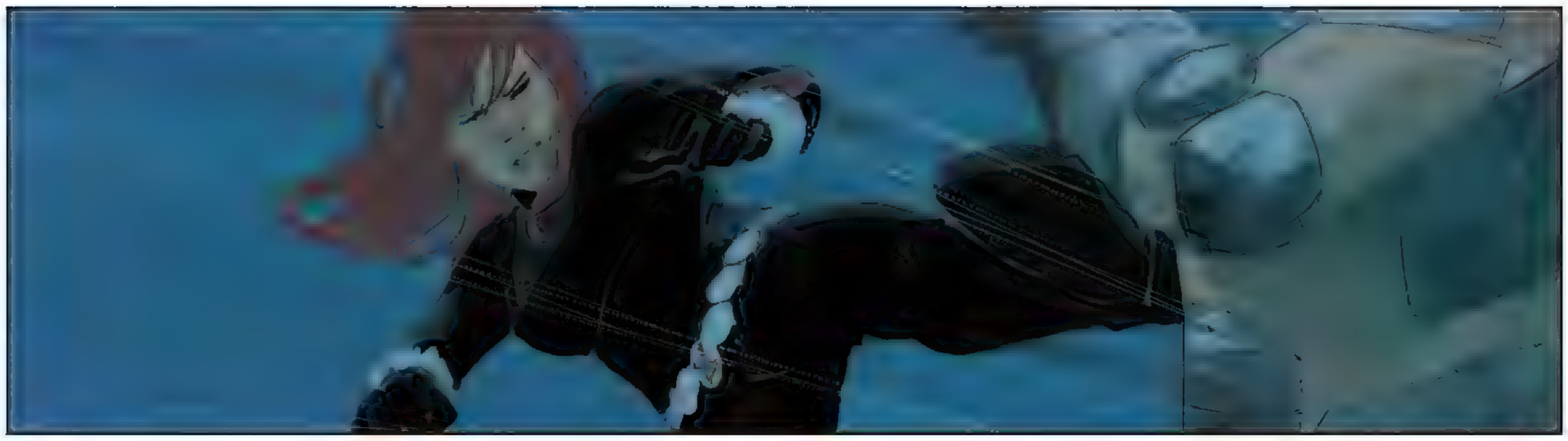
APOLOGIZE TO THE ALMIGHTY THAT YOUR SOUL MAY FIND MERCY.

TELL ME, MOLOT...

...ARE *THESE* MADE OF STEEL NOW, TOO?

UNGH!

DIDN'T THINK SO.



DAMN IT.

NO SIGNAL

ERROR

NO SIGNAL

ERROR

WHAT...

HELLO, DAMON.

SORRY TO HAVE MADE YOUR EXPENSIVE SURGERY SUCH A WASTE OF MONEY...

THOUGH I DO ADMIT, ALL THAT STEEL SURE MADE MOLOT *SINK* FAST.

HOW ABOUT NOW YOU EXPLAIN TO ME WHAT YOU'RE DOING HERE?

WHILE WE WAIT.

YOU CANNOT GET TO ME.

AND YOU ARE *NOTHING* COMPARED TO--

IS THAT THEM? ARE THEY HERE?

NO SIGNAL

NO SIGNAL

I DON'T KNOW WHO *THEY* ARE, DAMON.

BUT I SHOULD HAVE MENTIONED I DISABLED THE AUTO-STEER, AND TURNED US BACK TO SHORE. SO... YOU KNOW, WHATEVER YOU'RE HIDING FROM OUT HERE?

YOU CAN JUST EXPLAIN IT TO S.H.I.E.L.D. WHEN THEY PRY THIS THING OPEN.

S.H.I.E.L.D. HEADQUARTERS.

WE LOST TRACK OF DRAN EIGHT YEARS AGO.

APPARENTLY, THE SCIENCE BEHIND HIS INDESTRUCTIBILITY HAD AN EXPIRATION DATE...

HE TRIED TO BUILD THIS ARMOR INTO HIS BODY. HE USED U.V. LIGHTS AND PILLS TO KEEP HIMSELF, WELL, IMMORTAL...

ALL THE WHILE GROWING MORE AND MORE PARANOID.

THAT'S WHEN HE BEGAN KILLING OFF HIS ENEMIES...

KILL ANYONE WHO MIGHT GET TO HIM.

THAT'S A SPY'S PARANOIA.

THAT'S WHAT BEING ALONE DOES TO YOU.

WELL, HE HAS COMPANY NOW.

INDEED. AND WE HAVE ALL THE TIME TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE KNOWS.

NO, NO. NO, NO NO. NO.

CLICK

LUNCHTIME, MR. DRAN.

A HAMBURGER HOT OFF THE S.H.I.E.L.D. CAFETERIA LUNCHLINE.

BURGER TIME

CHAOS RAINS, MR. DRAN.

BURGER TIME

ZZZZZZTTT

BANG

OH, NO.

NO! DON'T OPEN IT!

CAN'T-- ESCAPE-- *CHAOS!*

CHAOS-- FALLS--LIKE ACID-- *RAIN!*

GET HAZMAT! QUARANTINE THE AREA!

TRIED--TO-- ESCAPE--*GACK*--NO ONE ESCAPES!

SEAL THE BUILDING!

"WE HAVE NO INTEL ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED, NATASHA.

"HOW THEY TURNED A SEASONED S.H.I.E.L.D. AGENT...

"...OR WHO THEY EVEN ARE.

"OUR JOB NOW IS TO FIND THEM. TO UNDERSTAND THEM."

THEY SAID "CHAOS WOULD FALL LIKE RAIN."

IT'S RAINING, NATASHA.

AND I CAN'T PUT S.H.I.E.L.D. ON THIS. NOT OFFICIALLY.

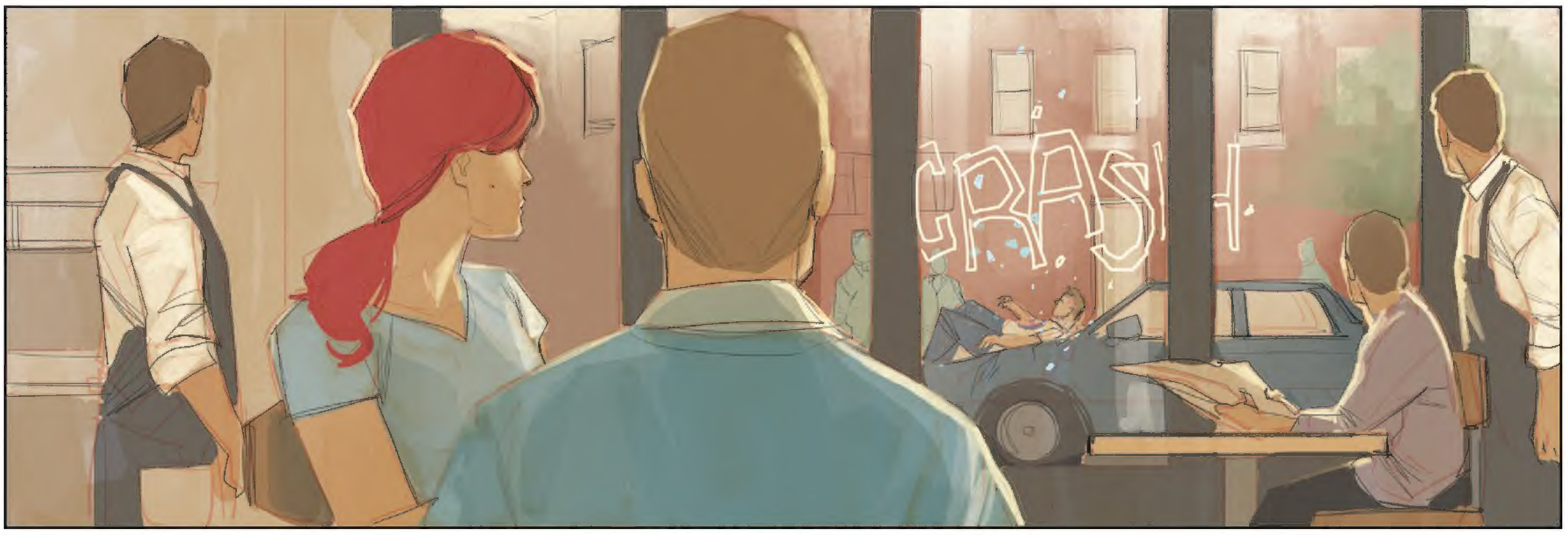
THIS IS A COMPLICATED WEB, MARIA. WE'RE TANGLED IN IT.

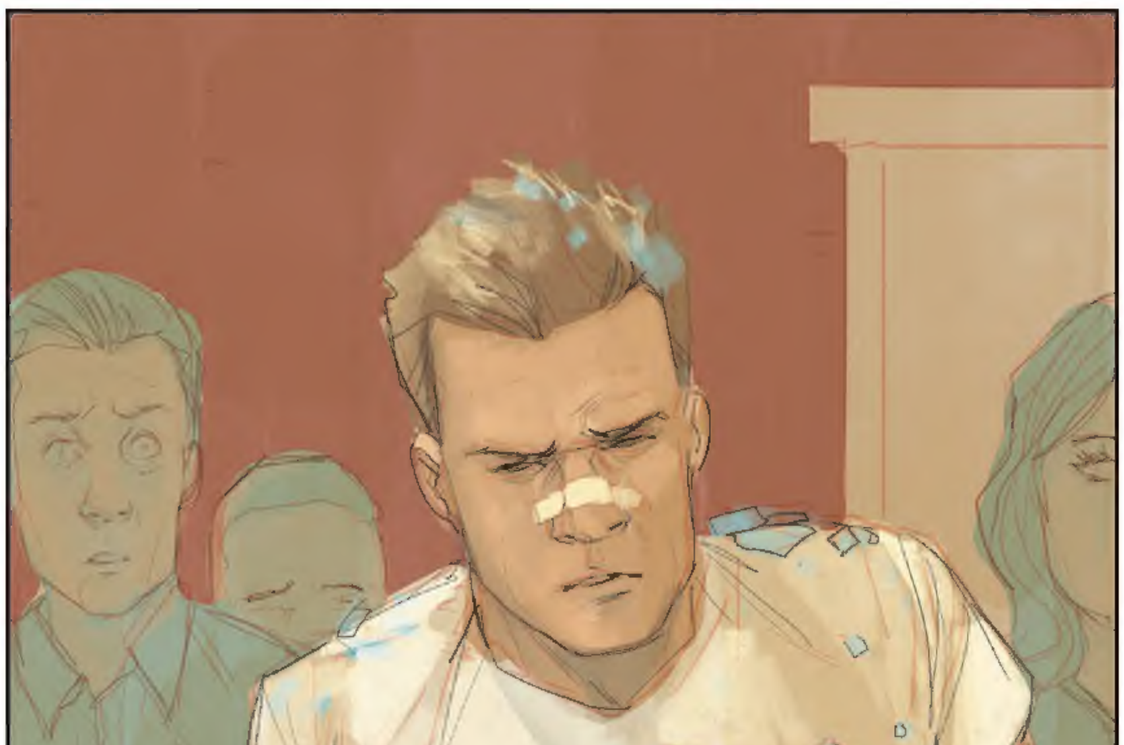
THEN I SUPPOSE WE'LL CONTINUE TO NEED A SPIDER WHO CAN NAVIGATE THE THREADS.

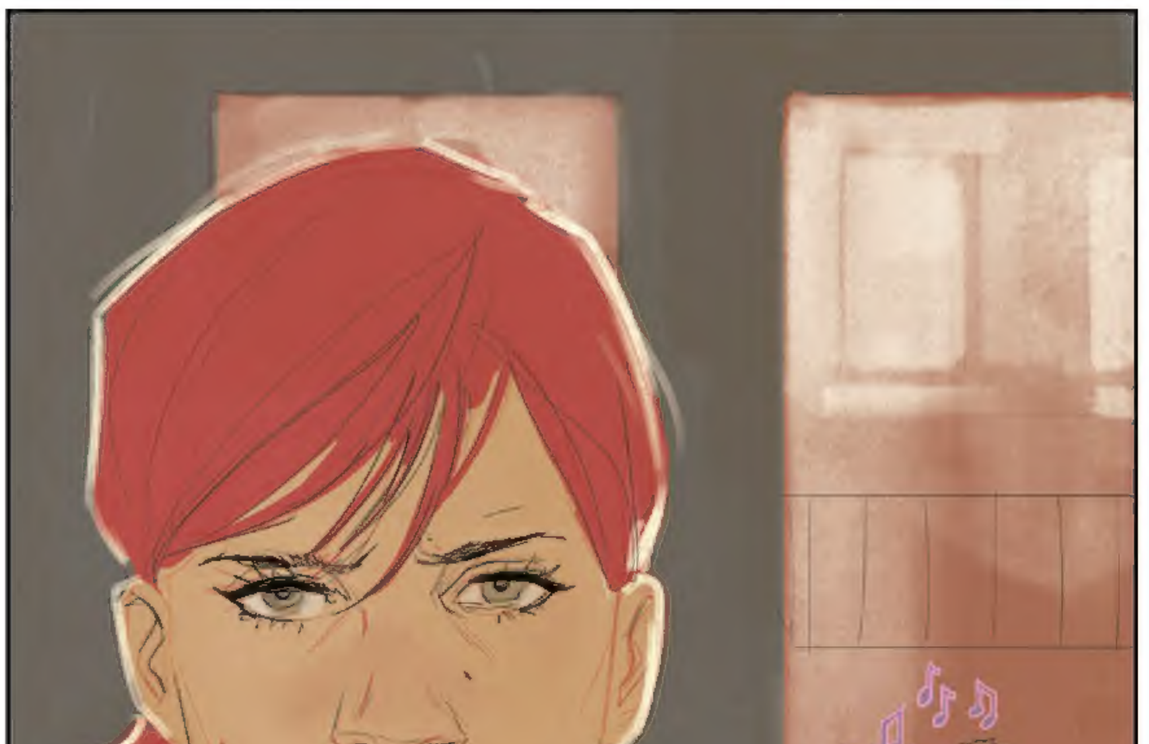
YOU'RE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN TRUST RIGHT NOW.

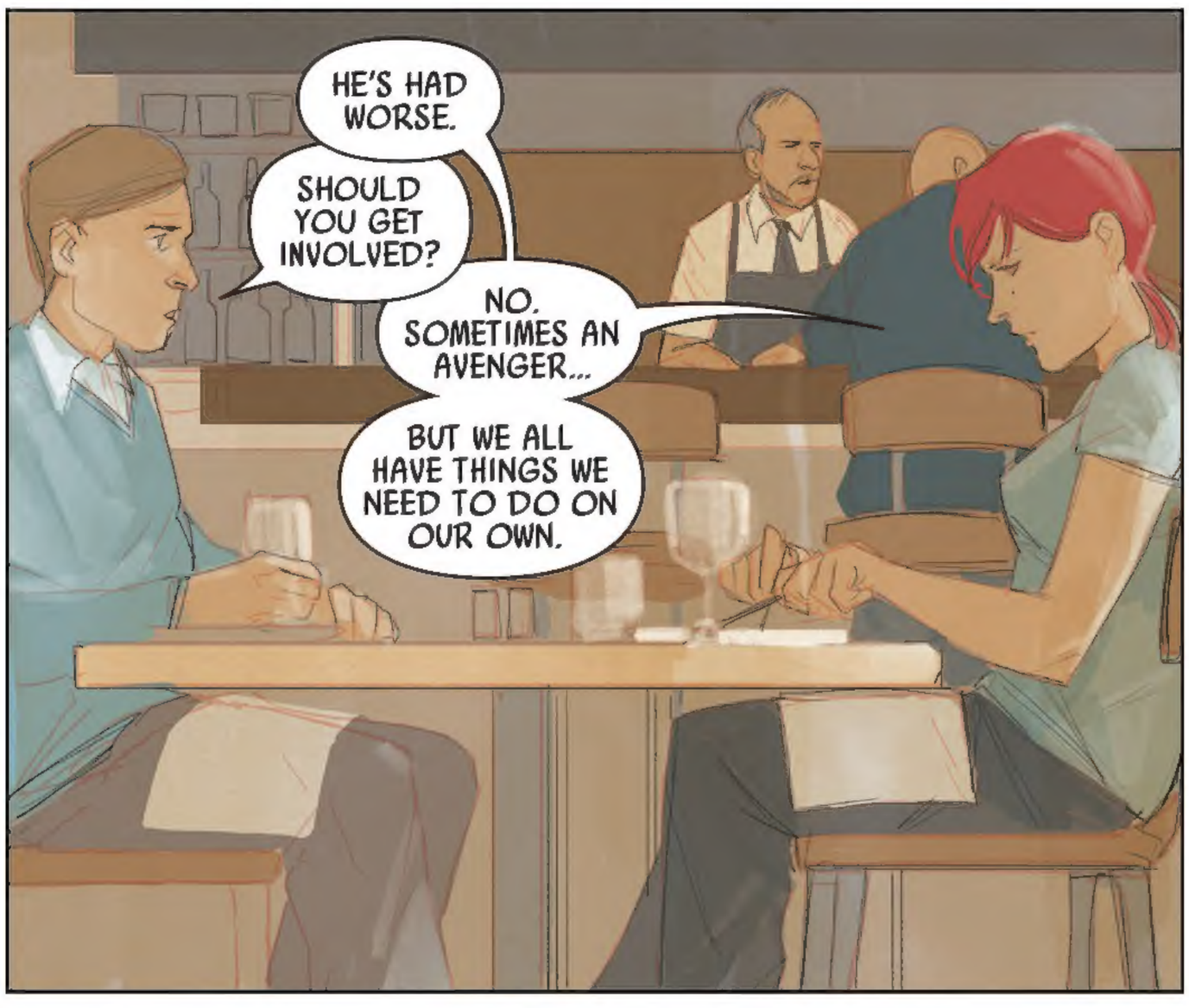
BUT WHO CAN I TRUST?
BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN DO THIS BY MYSELF

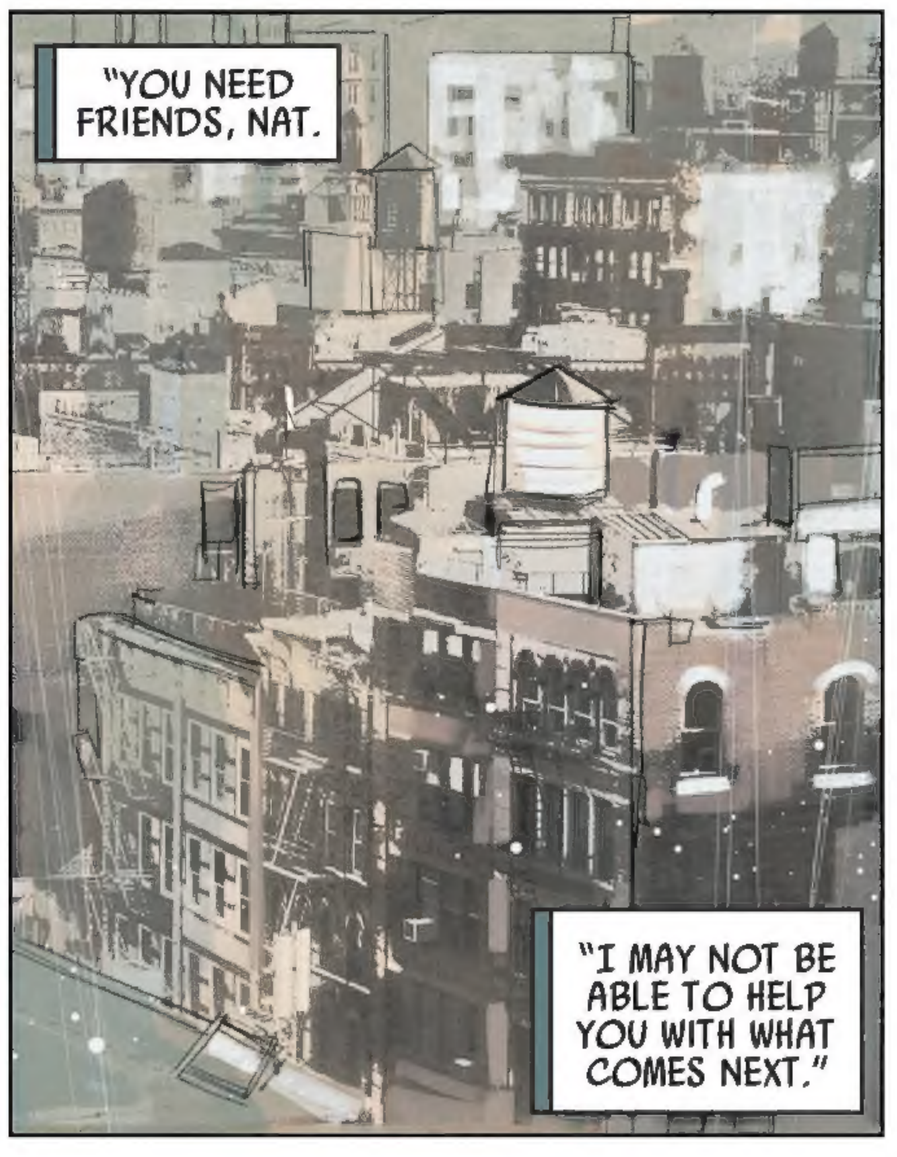
BROOKLYN.
THIS PLACE IS PRICEY, ISAIAH.
I'M PAYING. DON'T WORRY.
BUT I'M PAYING *YOU* AND I KNOW I DON'T PAY MY ATTORNEY THAT WELL.
SO.
SO, YOU MADE IT BACK ALIVE. WHICH MEANS WE DO STILL HAVE FINANCIAL WOES.
YOU KNOW, ISAIAH...
I APPRECIATE YOU.
I APPRECIATE A PERFECT EGGS BENEDICT.
YES, WELL. NONETHELESS. IT'S NICE NOT TO BE ALONE.
NOT FOR BREAKFAST, ANYWAY. BUT AFTER BREAKFAST...
...YOUR NEXT JOB.
HEADING BACK INTO THE FOG, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.


CRASH




THAT LOOKS BAD.


HE'S HAD WORSE.
SHOULD YOU GET INVOLVED?
NO. SOMETIMES AN AVENGER...
BUT WE ALL HAVE THINGS WE NEED TO DO ON OUR OWN.


"YOU NEED FRIENDS, NAT.
"I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO HELP YOU WITH WHAT COMES NEXT."

...YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LIKED IT THERE. I WAS ON LOTS OF WATER. THEN IT WAS RAINING...

MEEEEW!

YOU REALLY WANT IN?

OKAY. COME ON.

IT TAKES SO MUCH EFFORT TO GET CLOSE TO SOMEONE.

TO NAVIGATE THOSE FINELY WOVEN THREADS OF DOUBT AND TRUST.

BUT SOMETIMES...

SOMETIMES YOU NEED SOMEONE ELSE.

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